

Learning Style and Modality

Visual	Auditory	Kinesthetic
The visual learner needs to see, observe, record, and write.	The auditory learner needs to talk and to listen.	The tactile-kinesthetic learner needs to do, touch, be physically involved.
See information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagram • Chart • List 	Listen and respond to information	Needs structured, hands-on activity, such as building a replica of the Statue of Liberty, or using a salting process to feel the corrosion of metals.
See meaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through imagined visualization • Interpretive illustration 	Dialogue and discuss	Needs to be involved with “doing” activities, such as acting out an event in the dedication ceremony of the Statue of Liberty.
See content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Through written description 	Hear lecture and debate	Needs to touch what is being considered, such as holding and examining a model statue, visiting the Statue of Liberty, or analyzing and using the art of response.
See possibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through written brainstorming, such as webbing, mindmapping 	Talk out ideas, interests, problems, possibilities	Needs to immerse in the trial and error of experimentation, such as building his/her own version of the Statue of Liberty.

Barsch Learning Style Inventory

Jeffrey Barsch, EdD

Name _____

School _____

Grade or Year _____ Date _____

Counselor/Teacher/Examiner _____

To gain a better understanding of yourself as a learner, you need to evaluate the way you prefer to learn. We all should develop a style that will enhance our learning potential. The following evaluation is a short, quick way of assessing your learning style.

This is not a timed test. Try to do as much as you can by yourself. You surely may, however, ask for assistance when and where you feel you need it. Answer each question as honestly as you can. There are twenty-four questions.

When you have finished, transfer each number to its proper place on page 4. Then, total each of the three columns on that page. You will then see, very quickly, what your best channel of learning is. At that point you will know whether you are a visual, auditory, or tactile learner. By this we mean, whether you learn best through seeing things, hearing them or through the sense of touch (writing).

For example:

- If you are a visual learner, that is, if you have a high visual score, then by all means be sure you see all study materials. Use charts, maps, filmstrips, notes, and flashcards. Practice visualizing or picturing spelling words, for example, in your head. Write out everything for frequent and quick visual review.
- If you are an auditory learner, that is, if you have a high auditory score, then be sure to use tapes. Sit in the lecture hall or classroom where you can hear lectures clearly, tape the lectures, and review them frequently. Tape your class or lecture notes. After you have read something, summarize it on tape. Verbally review spelling words and lectures with a friend.
- If you are a tactile learner, that is, if you have a high tactile score, you might trace words, for example, as you are saying them. Facts that must be learned should be written several times. Keep a supply of scratch paper just for this purpose. Taking and keeping lecture notes will be very important.

Discuss the results of this test with your teacher or counselor. You will develop, through conversation, other helpful ways to study and learn more efficiently. Good luck for a more effective study pattern.

Place a check on the appropriate line after each statement.

	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Seldom</i>
1. Can remember more about a subject through listening than reading.	_____	_____	_____
2. Follow written directions better than oral directions.	_____	_____	_____
3. Like to write things down or take notes for visual review.	_____	_____	_____
4. Bear down extremely hard with pen or pencil when writing.	_____	_____	_____
5. Require explanations of diagrams, graphs, or visual directions.	_____	_____	_____
6. Enjoy working with tools.	_____	_____	_____
7. Are skillful with and enjoy developing and making graphs and charts.	_____	_____	_____
8. Can correctly match pairs of sounds.	_____	_____	_____
9. Remember best by writing things down several times.	_____	_____	_____
10. Can understand and follow directions on maps.	_____	_____	_____
11. Do better at academic subjects by listening to lectures and tapes.	_____	_____	_____
12. Play with coins or keys in pockets.	_____	_____	_____
13. Learn to spell better by repeating the letters out loud than by writing the word on paper.	_____	_____	_____

	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Seldom</i>
14. Can better understand a news article by reading about it in the paper than by listening to the radio.	_____	_____	_____
15. Chew gum, smoke, or snack during studies.	_____	_____	_____
16. Feel the best way to remember is to picture it in your head.	_____	_____	_____
17. Learn spelling by "finger spelling" the words.	_____	_____	_____
18. Would rather listen to a good lecture or speech than read about the same material in a textbook.	_____	_____	_____
19. Do well at working and solving jigsaw puzzles and mazes.	_____	_____	_____
20. Grip objects in hands during learning period.	_____	_____	_____
21. Prefer listening to the news on the radio rather than reading about it in a newspaper.	_____	_____	_____
22. Obtain information on an interesting subject by reading relevant materials.	_____	_____	_____
23. Feel very comfortable touching others, hugging, handshaking, etc.	_____	_____	_____
24. Follow oral directions better than written ones.	_____	_____	_____

Scoring Procedures:

OFTEN = 5 points
SOMETIMES = 3 points
SELDOM = 1 point

Place the point value on the line next to its corresponding item number. Next, add the points to obtain the preference scores under each heading.

<i>VISUAL</i>		<i>AUDITORY</i>		<i>TACTUAL</i>	
No.	Pts.	No.	Pts.	No.	Pts.
2	_____	1	_____	4	_____
3	_____	5	_____	6	_____
7	_____	8	_____	9	_____
7/03 (121 Barsch) 10	_____	11	_____	12	_____
14	_____	13	_____	15	_____
16	_____	18	_____	17	_____
20	_____	21	_____	19	_____
22	_____	24	_____	23	_____
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
<i>VPS</i> =		<i>APS</i> =		<i>TPS</i> =	

VPS = Visual Preference Score
APS = Auditory Preference Score
TPS = Tactual Preference Score

How to Use This Information:

This form is to be used in conjunction with other diagnostic tools to help you determine some of the ways you are best able to learn. Discuss your scores with someone who is qualified to interpret them in order to make the best use of the time and effort you have invested.