

## **DIFFERENT TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR DIFFERENT LEARNING TYPES**

**Yana Kazaku**, student

**Iryna Salata**, Associate Professor, PhD (Philology)  
*Kyryvi Rih State Pedagogical University*

It is well known that each person has his/her learning style and it is important to know especially for a young teacher who only starts his/her professional career. To be aware of this fact is necessary for choosing and using appropriate teaching strategies at the English lessons.

Learning styles are how people learn successfully. Information enters your brain by three main ways: sight, hearing and touch, which one you use the most is called your Learning Style.

Psychologists single out three main types of learning styles – visual, auditory and kinesthetic. Each type has its own characteristic features which are important to know to recognize students' learning styles.

Visual learners learn by sight. They need to associate ideas, concepts, data and other information with images and techniques. They observe rather than talk or act, prefer to see information such as pictures, diagrams, cartoons, demonstrations, memorize by seeing graphics and other visual aids. Visual learners are good at noticing details, advance planning and visualizing words and concepts they hear but may be easily distracted in lecture with no visual aids.

Auditory learners learn by hearing that's why they need to hear what is being said in order to understand and may have difficulty with written instructions. They enjoy music, hum or sing often, like being read to or listening to audio books. But auditory learners may be easily distracted that's why they often avoid eye contact in order to concentrate, may not need careful notes to learn.

Kinesthetic or Tactile learners learn best through a hands-on approach, actively exploring the physical world around them. They prefer touch as their primary mode for taking in information, create study sheets connected to vivid examples, but may find it hard to sit still for long periods and may become distracted by their need for activity and exploration.

Each of these learning styles has its own learning strategies which should be proposed by a teacher to encourage students to try these strategies when learning information or preparing for an assessment.

The best learning strategies for visual learners may be the following: to propose students to recopy notes while studying, this can be done several times if necessary; to look at the words, visualize them and repeat to themselves, etc.

As for the teaching strategies, which mean how to adapt class presentations and training sessions to each learning style for maximum effect, teachers should seat visual learners close to the front, where they can see the presenter clearly

avoiding visual obstructions (e.g. people's heads). As they may think in pictures a teacher should include visual displays: diagrams, illustrations, overhead transparencies, videos, graphs, charts, outlines, concept maps and hand-outs. During a lecture or classroom discussion visual learners often prefer to take detailed notes to absorb the information so it's useful to leave white space in hand-outs for note-taking. A teacher should emphasize key points to give the cue when to take notes.

Speaking about learning strategies for auditory learners a teacher should advise students to repeat facts or information aloud while studying, to say words inside their heads to remember them, to use a tape recorder or audio books.

In a classroom with auditory learners a teacher should begin new material with a brief explanation of what is coming and conclude with a summary of what has been covered. The usage of so called Socratic method will be helpful for this type of learners. The learners are questioned to get as much information from them as possible and then a teacher fills in the gaps with the necessary data. A teacher may have the learners to brainstorm, to study aloud with others, to explain or teach information to others. An instructor shouldn't be monotonous while speaking, should incorporate songs or catchy phrases into his/her presentation.

To kinesthetic learners a teacher can advise to take frequent breaks when studying, to get up and move around, pace back and forth, to draw information while learning it, to move away all distracting objects from the desk.

As far as teaching strategies for kinesthetic learners are concerned the best techniques may be as following: kinesthetic persons may find it hard to sit still for long periods and may become distracted by their need for activity and exploration so it's better to seat them at the back of the room so their motion does not distract others; to give frequent stretch and brain breaks; to use role play activities that get the learners up and moving; to play music, when appropriate, during activities; to use models and real objects for visual aids and pass them around to the students.

Of course, in the class a teacher meets a mixture of all three learning styles so the problem arises how to teach these different types of learners. It is very important to find out learning styles of the students in the class and use a mix of various activities and teaching techniques that will benefit each type of learner and make class work absorbing and captivating both for students and a teacher. This work may be energy- and time-consuming but at the same time encouraging and rewarding.

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