

Alan, age 17: "It's hard for me because of my trouble with reading comprehension. The books and texts use words that are hard to sound out because they are so descriptive and seem long."

So what does that mean for you? It means that there are different learning strategies for different learners. This chapter will give you the best strategies for learning based on your learning style.

STRATEGIES FOR VISUAL LEARNERS

- Ask for directions in writing, especially if they require more than one step.
- Ask for an outline of the material being covered during a lecture.
- Create flashcards to learn new concepts or vocabulary words.
- Ask for a demonstration or illustration of a new concept or skill.
- 417 ➤ Read new information to yourself before reading it as a class.
- Take notes, then go back to edit your notes to filter out the important information. Putting your notes into outline form is especially helpful.
- Use graphic organizers.
- Ask the teacher to give you additional time to think before answering an oral question. This allows you time to process the information, translate it into picture form, and then get it out orally.
- Study in a quiet environment.
- Highlight or underline important information in a text.
- Doodle. Some parents or teachers may think that doodling may be a distraction, but it can actually help you pay more attention to what you are learning.

If they don't believe you, have them read this chapter on learning styles. It can't hurt!

- Draw pictures that represent concepts or vocabulary words.
- As you read, make pictures in your head.

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STRATEGIES FOR AUDITORY LEARNERS

- Use books on tape or eBooks that "talk" to you. Many of them allow you to slow down or speed up the rate of reading. This also makes rereading a lot easier.
- Ask to be read to. Being read to is fun at any age.
- When you are presented with a worksheet, read it aloud or make sure you listen to the teacher if she is reading it to the class.
- Playing background music is effective for auditory learners.
- Making up mnemonic devices, such as ROYGBIV (roy-gee-biv) for remembering the colors of the rainbow, is effective. For those who do not remember, it is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.
- Study aloud with a classmate. Quiz each other.
- Form a study group.
- Create a song based on information you need to learn.
- Use technology. There are many text-to-speech software programs, such as Kurzweil 3000, that allow you to scan in any printed material, then read it back to you.

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STRATEGIES FOR KINESTHETIC LEARNERS

- Move around while you are studying. It is okay not to sit in the same place for extended periods of time.

- You can bounce a ball or read your notes aloud while walking around the room.
- Take frequent breaks while studying. Get some exercise or eat a snack.
 - Reread the text as many times as you can, as your attention span is probably too short to learn large pieces of information in short periods of time. This is called "chunking."
 - Ask for extended time to take tests. See if you can take tests over multiple days.
 - Doodle (see the strategies for visual learners).
 - 451 ➤ Highlight or underline text while reading.
 - Act out new concepts, or make up a dance in order to remember them. For example, if learning how to add double-digit numbers, make up a dance that represents each step.

STRATEGIES FOR TACTILE LEARNERS

- Write or draw new concepts or vocabulary words.
- Using manipulatives such as Base-10 blocks or math cubes to improve your learning.
- Used lined paper with a raised mid-line so you can feel when you are going out of the lines.
- See if there are hands-on ways to learn new concepts such as getting sandpaper and cutting out letters. Use your finger to touch each letter while saying its sound.
- Get different-colored pencils and make "rainbow words." Take one color and write a word that you need to learn. Then trace over the word using a different color, until you create the rainbow effect.
- 461 ➤ Spread shaving cream on a table. Use your finger to draw letters into the shaving cream while saying the letter's sound. This is also a great way to learn new spelling words or learn to divide words into syllables.

- Take breaks while studying.
- Make a model of a new concept if possible.
- Paint a picture of the concept you're studying.

WHAT ARE MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES?

Howard Gardner is a developmental psychologist who is best known for his theory of multiple intelligences. He has come up with nine different types of intelligences, which should be a relief to those with reading difficulties because it lets you know what other strengths you have and how to use those strengths to help you learn more effectively. Remember metacognition?

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There are many different forms of intelligences, not just ones surrounding reading.

When you are reading about the different types of intelligences, think about how they are connected to the four different learning styles. Think about which one you fit in. Then you could match the learning strategies not only to your learning style, but to your intelligence type. The different multiple intelligences are (Gardner, 2000):

- *Visual/Spatial Intelligence:* You tend to think in pictures and need to create mental images. You can easily use maps, charts, and pictures to help learn. You have many talents such as doing puzzles, painting, and having a good sense of direction. Many people with visual/spatial intelligences become artists, architects, and mechanics.
- *Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence:* You have super auditory skills and excellent speaking skills. You think in words instead of pictures. Your skills include story telling, explaining, remembering information, teaching, and understanding the meanings of words.

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