

Felder Learning Styles and Strategies

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Active												Reflective
-11	-9	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	7	9	11	
Sensing												Intuitive
-11	-9	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	7	9	11	
Visual												Verbal
-11	-9	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	7	9	11	
Sequential												Global
-11	-9	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5	7	9	11	

- If your score is between -3 to 3, you have no preference toward any dimension of the scale and are fairly well balanced between the two dimensions.
- If your score is between -5 and -7 or between 5 and 7, you have a moderate preference for one dimension of the scale
- If your score is between -9 and -11 or 9 and 11, you have a strong preference for one dimension of the scale

Active learners**Reflective learners**

Learning preferences:

Discussions.
Application of knowledge.
Explaining to or
teaching others.

Thinking quietly first.

Learning tips:

Study with a group.
Explain concepts to
friends/tutor/TA/prof.

While reading, stop
periodically and
review, think of
possible questions and
applications.
Write summaries of
readings or notes in
your own words.

Sensing learners**Intuitive learners**

Characteristics:

Patient with details.
Good at memorizing facts.
Good at hands on (lab) work.
Practical and careful.

Good at grasping new
concepts.
Good at mathematical
formulations and abstract
concepts.
Works relatively fast and
innovatively.

Learning preferences:

Facts
Solving problems by
established methods.
Real world connections.

Discovering relationships
and possibilities.
Innovation and creativity.

Learning challenges:

Dislikes complications
and surprises.
Resents being tested
on material not covered in class.
May have problems in very
theoretical/abstract courses.

Dislikes repetition and
copious memorization.
May be prone to careless
mistakes due to
impatience with details.

Learning tips:

Ask for real world examples or
connections.
Find out how concepts apply
in practice.

Ask or look for
interpretations or theories
that link facts.
Take time to read entire
question before you start
answering and check your
results.

Visual learners

Verbal learners

Learning preferences:

Visual context: pictures, charts, diagrams, time lines, films, demonstrations.

Verbal or written context: written or spoken explanations.

Learning tips:

Look for visual representations of course material (CD-ROMs, websites, etc.).
Draw concept maps to show connections and links between concepts.
Color code your notes.
Highlight key words when reading.

Write summaries or outlines of course material in your own words.
Work in groups: you gain understanding by hearing classmates explanations or explaining concepts to others.

Sequential learners

Global learners

Characteristics and learning preferences:

Gains understanding in logical, linear steps.
May not fully grasp material but can do something with it because the pieces absorbed are logically connected.
Concepts must have a logical flow and explanation.
Likes to follow stepwise paths in finding solutions.

Learns in large jumps, absorb material almost randomly.
May be able to solve complex problems quickly or put things together in novel ways once they have grasped the big picture but may have difficulty explaining how they did it.

Learning challenges:

May know a lot about specific aspects but may have trouble relating this to different aspects of the same subject or to different subjects.

May have difficulties until grasping the big picture and may still be fuzzy on the details.

Learning tips:

Take time to fill in steps jumped over or rushed through in class.
When studying, outline lecture material in a logical order.
Strengthen global thinking by relating each new topic to something you already know.

before studying new topics, skim through past material (or whole chapter) to get an overview.
Instead of studying a little of every subject daily, immerse yourself in individual subjects for large blocks of time.
Try to relate new concepts to things you already know.

Remember learning preferences are **not** constraints and everyone practices some aspects of ALL learning styles depending on the academic situation. It is, therefore, *always* good practice to read and implement all learning tips where applicable!