

## Teaching Auditory and Visual Learners

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**Abstract:** The main purpose of writing this article is giving information about learning styles and its visual and auditory types, roles and benefits. In addition, how do auditory and visual learners learn best and what kind of activities and approaches are appropriate for teaching them. The differences, benefits and disadvantages of both learning styles are also highlighted.

**Key points:** learning styles, auditory learners, visual learners, mnemonic devices, alliteration, color-coding, highlighting.

Nowadays, the word “learning style” is one of the most commonly used in education. Learning style is an individual’s preferred method of acquiring and processing information. In addition, it is the way in which a person best understands and retains new knowledge and skills. There are three main types of learning styles: auditory, visual and kinesthetic. Students with a visual learning style learn through what they see, auditory students learn through what they hear and kinesthetic students learn through movement and touch. Individual student learning styles tend to have different useful for learning processing and communication, according to Bandler and Grinder. Celce-Murcia defines learning styles as the general approaches- for example, global or analytic, auditory or visual- that students use in acquiring a new language or in learning any subject.[1] By the way, some individuals may have a combination of two or three learning styles and benefit from using multiple strategies to improve their learning. These people can adapt their learning techniques depending on the type of information being presented. Identifying one’s learning style may help to develop some skills like problem-solving, communication and career development. For example, in career development, identifying one’s style can help people to choose careers and jobs that align with their strengths and preferences for learning and working.

**Auditory learners.** Auditory learning is a learning style in which people learn information by listening and repeating. Auditory learners understand and remember things that they heard. To briefly review its history, auditory learning is a relatively new term that was first used in the 1940-1950s to describe learning by listening. Auditory learners learn best through listening and speaking. They benefit from hearing information presented verbally, such as through lectures, discussions and audio recordings. They may also benefit from repeating information out loud and discussing it with others. They tend to remember peoples’ names but forget their faces and are easily disturbed by sounds. They take pleasure in reading dialogue and plays and dislike lengthy narratives and descriptions. Additionally, auditory learners may find it helpful to use mnemonic devices or create songs or rhymes to help them remember information. Mnemonic devices are techniques or strategies that help people remember information more effectively. These can include acronyms, rhymes, songs or other creative methods that help to associate new information with something that is easier to remember. Mnemonic devices can be particularly helpful for auditory learners in

recalling and retaining information. Some examples of mnemonic devices that can be effective for auditory learners include those:

1. Rhymes and songs: They create a catchy rhyme or song to remember a list of items or key information. For example, using the classic “A-B-C” song to remember the alphabet.
2. Acronyms: Creating a word or phrase where each letter represents a piece of information to be remembered. For instance, using the acronym HOMES to remember the names of the Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior).
3. Storytelling: Creating a narrative or story that incorporates the information to be remembered. This can help auditory learners retain information by providing context and meaning.
4. Alliteration: Using words that start with the same sound to create a memorable phrase. For example, “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers” to remember the sound of the letter “P”

There are some benefits of auditory learning. For example:

1. Strong listening skills: auditory learners often have strong listening skills which can be beneficial in both academic and professional settings.
2. Enhanced language skills: they may have a natural aptitude for language learning and may excel in activities such as listening comprehension, speaking and pronunciation.
3. Effective communication: auditory learners may be skilled at expressing themselves verbally and communicating effectively in a variety of settings such as public speaking, presentations and discussions.

As well as, auditory learning has some disadvantages like distraction in noisy environments, difficulty with visual learning and others. In noisy or chaotic environments, auditory learners may have difficulty focusing and retaining information because they are highly sensitive to auditory stimuli.

**Visual learners.** Visual learning is a type of learning style which refers to the preferences for using images, diagrams, charts and other visual aids to understand retain information. Visual learners tend to process information best when it is presented in a visual format. In addition, they often have a strong ability to visualize and remember spatial arrangements. Visual learners are likely to have a photographic memory and may use color, tone and brightness to recall information. They benefit from using flashcards, creating visual timelines and utilizing other visual tools to help reinforce their understanding of the material. Additionally, they often prefer to study in a quiet, visually stimulating environment where they can focus on the visual aspects of the material. There are so many strategies and techniques for teaching visual learners. These strategies can help visual learners effectively remember information.

1. Mind maps and visual organizers: They benefit from using mind maps and visual organizers to connect ideas and concepts in a visual way, making it easier for them to understand and remember information.
2. Color-coding and highlighting: Using color-coding and highlighting techniques can help them organize and prioritize information, making it easier for them to process and retain.
3. Demonstrations and hands-on activities: providing visual learners with hands-on experience and demonstrations can help them understand and internalize concepts through visual observation and interaction.
4. Visual quizzes and assessments: using visual assessments, such as matching exercises or image-based quizzes can be effective way to evaluate visual learners’ understanding of the material.

As auditory learning, visual learning also has some advantages and disadvantages and the following are examples of visual learning benefits:

1. Enhanced creativity and critical thinking: visual learning can stimulate creativity and critical thinking skills as it often requires learners to interpret and analyze visual information in a variety of ways.
2. Effective communication: visual learners may excel conveying complex ideas and concepts through visual aids such as graphics and visual storytelling.
3. Flexibility in learning styles: visual learning can be adapted to various learning styles, allowing for a more personalized and adaptable approach to education.

The difference between visual and auditory learners is that visual learners prefer to learn through visual images and sight, whereas auditory learners prefer to learn by listening such as attending lectures, tutorials and group discussions. Moreover, Kanar stated that auditory learners prefer to learn by listening. In addition, he adds that auditory learners can improve their skills by hearing others' speeches, discussing a topic, expressing ideas and instructing others. In contrast, Kanar also claimed that visual learning is associated with reading and watching. Additionally, he stated that visual learners are able to learn by observing and looking at pictures and graphics.[2] Based on Kanar's ideas, auditory and visual learners can improve several skills through different strategies. For example, they use critical thinking skills when listening to the opinions of others and expressing their own ideas.

As a conclusion, auditory and visual learners have distinct preferences for how they process and retain information. Auditory learners tend to learn best through hearing and speaking, while visual learners prefer to learn through seeing and reading. Understanding these differences can help educators tailor their teaching methods to better accommodate the needs of both auditory and visual learners, ultimately leading to more effective learning experiences for all students. Additionally, it is important for individuals to recognize their own learning style and seek out strategies that align with their preferences in order to maximize their learning potential.

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