

Your Learning Style and Skill Assessment

Part I. Your Learning Style Assessment

I. Your learning style assessment

Answer the questions 1-13:

This test is to find out something about your preferred learning method. Research on the left/right brain differences and also on learning personality differences suggest that each person has a preferred way to receive and communicate information.

Choose the answer that best explains your preference and mark the letter (V, R, A, or K). If only a single answer does not match your perception, please indicate the second or third choices.

1. You are about to give directions to a person. She is staying in a hotel in town and wants to visit your house. She has a rental car. Would you:

- V. draw a map on paper?
- R. write down the directions (without a map)?
- A. tell her the directions?
- K. collect her from the hotel in your car?

2. You are staying in a hotel and have a rental car. You would like to visit a friend whose address/location you do not know. Would you like them to:

- V. draw you a map?
- R. write down the directions (without a map)?
- A. tell you directions?
- K. collect you from the hotel in their car?

3. You have just received a copy of your itinerary for a world trip. This is of interest to your friend. Would you:

- A. call her immediately and tell her about it?
- R. Send her a copy of the printed itinerary?
- V. show her a map of the world?

4. You are going to cook a dessert as a special treat for your family. Do you:

- K. cook something familiar without the need for instructions?
- V. thumb through a cookbook looking for ideas from the pictures?
- R. refer to a specific cookbook where there is a good recipe?
- A. ask for advice from others?

5. A group of tourists has been assigned to you to find out about national parks. Would you:

- K. drive them to a national park?
- V. show them slides and photographs?
- R. give them a book on national parks?
- A. give them a talk on national parks?

6. You are about to purchase a new stereo. Other than the price, what would most influence your decision?

- A. a friend talking about it?
- K. listening to it?
- R. reading the details about it?
- V. its distinctive, upscale appearance?

7. Recall a time in your life when you learned how to do something like playing a new board game. Try to avoid choosing a very physical skill, i.e. riding a bike. How did you learn best? By:

- V. visual clues-pictures, diagrams, charts?
- R. written instructions?
- A. listening to somebody explain it?
- K. doing it?

8. Which of these games do you prefer?

- A. Pictionary?
- R. Scrabble?
- K. Charades?

9. You are about to learn how to use a new program on a computer. Would you:

- K. ask a friend to show you?
- R. read the manual which comes with the program?
- A. telephone a friend and ask questions about it?

10. You are not sure whether a word should be spelled "dependent" or "dependant". Do you:

- R. look it up in a dictionary?
- V. see the word in your mind and choose the best way it looks?
- A. sound it out?
- K. write both versions down?

11. Apart from price, what would most influence your decision to buy a particular textbook?

- K. using a friend's copy?
- R. skimming parts of it?
- A. a friend talking about it?
- V. it looks OK?

12. A new movie has arrived in town. What would most influence your decision to go or not go?

- A. friends talking about it?
- R. you read a review about it?
- V. You saw a preview of it?

13. Do you prefer a lecturer/teacher who likes to use:

- R. handouts and/or a textbook?

- V. flow diagrams, charts, slides?
- K. field trips, labs, practical sessions?
- A. discussion, guest speakers?

<http://www.wright.edu/~carole.endres/learnstyles.htm>

Now go back and count how many V's, A's, R's, and K's you circled. **Whichever letter you have circled most indicates your preferred learning style. If you have a "tie" or two letters are about equal you probably have more than one preferred learning style. Record your answers in the provided answer sheet at the end of this handout.**

II. Learning Strategies

1. Visual Learner

- a. **In Class You Should:**
 - i. Underline
 - ii. use different colors
 - iii. use symbols, charts, arrangements on a page
- b. **When Studying You Should:**
 - i. use the "In Class" method
 - ii. reconstruct images in different ways
 - iii. redraw pages from memory
 - iv. replace words with symbols and initials
- c. **During Exams You Should:**
 - i. recall the pictures of the pages
 - ii. draw, use diagrams where appropriate
 - iii. practice turning visuals back into words

2. Aural Learner

- a. **In Class You Should:**
 - i. attend lectures and tutorials
 - ii. discuss topics with students
 - iii. explain new ideas to other people
 - iv. use a tape recorder
 - v. describe overheads, pictures, and visuals to somebody that was not there.
 - vi. leave space in notes for later recall
- b. **When Studying You Should:**
 - i. understand you may take poor notes because you prefer to listen
 - ii. expand your notes
 - iii. put summarized notes on tape and listen
 - iv. read summarized notes out loud
 - v. explain notes to another Aural person
- c. **During Exams You Should:**
 - i. listen to your voices and write them down
 - ii. speak your answers
 - iii. practice writing answers to old exam questions

3. Reading/Writing Learner

a. In Class You Should:

- i. use list, heading
- ii. use dictionary and definitions
- iii. use handouts and textbooks
- iv. read
- v. use lecture notes

b. When Studying You Should:

- i. write out the words again and again
- ii. reread notes silently
- iii. rewrite ideas into other words
- iv. organize diagrams into statements

c. During Exams You Should:

- i. practice with multiple choice questions
- ii. write out lists
- iii. write paragraphs, beginnings, endings

4. Kinesthetic Learner

a. In Class You Should:

- i. use all of your senses
- ii. go to lab, take field trips
- iii. use trial and error methods
- iv. listen to real life examples
- v. use hands-on approach

b. When Studying You Should:

- i. understand you may take notes poorly due to topics not seeming relevant
- ii. put examples in note summaries
- iii. use pictures and photos to illustrate
- iv. talk about notes with another Kinesthetic person

c. During Exams You Should:

- i. write practice answers
- ii. role-play the exam situation in your room

II. Study Skill Checklist

Read each statement below and consider how it applies to you. If it does apply to you, check Y. If it does not apply to you, check N. The purpose of this inventory is to find out about your own study habits and attitudes.

1. Y__ N__ I spend too much time studying for what I am learning.
2. Y__ N__ I usually spend hours cramming the night before an exam.
3. Y__ N__ If I spend as much time on my social activities as I want to, I don't have enough time left to study, or when I study enough, I don't have time for a social life.
4. Y__ N__ I usually try to study with the radio and TV turned on.
5. Y__ N__ I can't sit and study for long periods of time without becoming tired or distracted.
6. Y__ N__ I go to class, but I usually doodle, daydream, or fall asleep.
7. Y__ N__ My class notes are sometimes difficult to understand later.
8. Y__ N__ I usually seem to get the wrong material into my class notes.
9. Y__ N__ I don't review my class notes periodically throughout the semester in preparation for tests.
10. Y__ N__ When I get to the end of a chapter, I can't remember what I've just read.
11. Y__ N__ I don't know how to pick out what is important in the text.
12. Y__ N__ I can't keep up with my reading assignments, and then I have to cram the night before a test.
13. Y__ N__ I lose a lot of points on essay tests even when I know the material well.
14. Y__ N__ I study enough for my test, but when I get there my mind goes blank.
15. Y__ N__ I often study in a haphazard, disorganized way under the threat of the next test.
16. Y__ N__ I often find myself getting lost in the details of reading and have trouble identifying the main ideas.
17. Y__ N__ I rarely change my reading speed in response to the difficulty level of the selection, or my familiarity with the content.

18. Y__ N__ I often wish that I could read faster.

19. Y__ N__ When my teachers assign papers I feel so overwhelmed that I can't get started.

20. Y__ N__ I usually write my papers the night before they are due.

21. Y__ N__ I can't seem to organize my thoughts into a paper that makes sense.

If you have answered "yes" to two or more questions in any category, look at our Study Skills Self-help Information for those categories. If you have one "yes" or less in a category, you are probably proficient enough in these areas that you don't need Self-help Information. Feel free, however, to get information in areas that you may have special interests, even if you scored well.

Time Scheduling - 1, 2, and 3.

Concentration - 4, 5, and 6.

Listening & Note taking - 7, 8, and 9.

Reading - 10, 11, and 12.

Exams - 13, 14, and 15.

Reading - 16, 17, and 18.

Writing Skills -19, 20, and 21.

<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/checklis.html>

Learning Style and Study Skill Answer Sheet
Turn in this page only

Name _____ Section _____

I. Learning Style Assessment

<i>Total</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>R</i>	K

Your learning style is _____

In class you should:

When studying you should:

During exams you should:

II. Based on your study skill list, you need to improve, check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Time Scheduling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Concentration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening & Note taking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exams
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writing Skills