

LEARNING STYLES INVENTORY

Choose the best answer for each question. After you have finished answering all of the questions, count the number **a)** and **b)** responses for each of the five sections of your inventory.

Section 1

1. I would prefer to:
 - a) Follow a set of oral directions
 - b) Follow a set of written instructions

2. I would prefer to:
 - a) Attend a lecture given by a famous psychologist
 - b) Read an article written by a famous psychologist

3. I am better at:
 - a) Remembering names
 - b) Remembering faces

4. It is easier to learn new information:
 - a) Using Languages
 - b) Using images (pictures)

5. I prefer classes in which the instructor:
 - a) Lectures and answers questions
 - b) Uses film and videos

6. To obtain information about current events, I would prefer to:
 - a) Listen to a news report on the radio
 - b) Read the newspaper

7. To learn how to fix a fax machine, I would prefer to:
 - a) Go to a demonstration
 - b) Consult a manual

Now total the number of A's and B's for Section 1:

A's = _____

B's = _____

Section 2

1. I prefer to:
 - a) Learn the facts and details
 - b) Construct theories and ideas

2. I would prefer a job involving:
 - a) Following specific instructions
 - b) Reading, writing, and analyzing

3. I prefer to:
 - a) Solve math problems using a formula
 - b) Discover why the formula works

4. I would prefer to write a term paper:
 - a) Explaining why a process works
 - b) Explaining a theory

5. I prefer tasks that require:
 - a) Careful, detailed following of instructions
 - b) Reasoning and critical analysis

6. For a course on Criminal Justice, I would prefer to:
 - a) Discover how and when a law can be used
 - b) Learn how and why it became a law

7. To learn more about the operation of a high speed computer printer, I would prefer to:
 - a) Work with several types of printers
 - b) Understand the principles about why they operate

Now total the number of A's and B's for Section 2:

A's = _____

B's = _____

Section 3

1. To solve a math problem, I would prefer to:
 - a) Draw or visualize the problem
 - b) Study a sample problem and use it as my model

2. To remember things best, I:
 - a) Create a mental picture
 - b) Write it down

3. Assembling a bicycle from a diagram would be:
 - a) Easy
 - b) Challenging

4. I prefer classes in which I:
 - a) Handle equipment and work with models
 - b) Participate in class discussion

5. To understand and remember how a machine works, I would:
 - a) Use a diagram
 - b) Write notes

6. I enjoy:
 - a) Drawing or working with my hands
 - b) Speaking, writing, and listening

7. If you were trying to locate an office on an unfamiliar university campus, would you prefer a student to:
 - a) Draw you a map
 - b) Tell you how to find the office

Now total the number of A's and B's for Section 3:

A's = _____

B's = _____

Section 4

1. For a grade in Biology Lab, I would prefer to:
 - a) Work with a lab partner
 - b) Work alone

2. When faced with a difficult problem, I prefer to:
 - a) Discuss it with others
 - b) Resolve it myself

3. Many instructors could improve their classes by:
 - a) Including more discussion and group activities
 - b) Allowing students to work on their own more frequently

4. When listening to a lecture or a speaker, I respond more to:
 - a) The person presenting ideas
 - b) The ideas themselves

5. When working on a team project, I prefer:
 - a) To work with several team members
 - b) To divide up tasks and complete those assigned to me

6. I:
 - a) Frequently try to shop, run errands, and work with friends
 - b) Seldom try to shop, run errands, and work with friends

7. A job in a busy office is
 - a) More appealing than working alone
 - b) Less appealing than working alone

Now total the number of A's and B's for Section 4:

A's = _____

B's = _____

Section 5

1. To make decisions, I rely on:
 - a) My experiences and gut feelings
 - b) Facts and objective data

2. To complete a task, I:
 - a) Can use whatever is available to get the job done
 - b) Must have everything at hand that I need

3. I prefer to express my ideas and feelings through:
 - a) Music, song, or poetry
 - b) Direct, concise language

4. I prefer instructors who:
 - a) Allow their students to select what and how to learn
 - b) Make their expectations clear and explicit

5. I tend to:
 - a) Challenge and question what I hear and read
 - b) Accept what I hear and read

6. I prefer:
 - a) Essay exams
 - b) Objective exams

7. In completing an assignment, I prefer to:
- a) Figure out my own approach
 - b) Be told exactly what to do

Now total the number of A's and B's for Section 5:

A's = _____

B's = _____

LEARNING STYLE SCORING INSTRUCTIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Awareness of weaknesses or preferences in YOUR learning style can also improve your learning. If you are a very visual person, for example, you may want to select classes where the professor writes notes on the board, uses videos, or where demonstrations are used.

These five pairs of categories classify our Learning Styles:

Section 1: Auditory or Visual Learners

More A's in this section = Auditory

More B's in this section = Visual

The score in this category indicates the sensory mode you prefer when you process information. Auditory learners tend to learn more effectively through listening, while visual learners process information by seeing it in print or other visual modes including films, pictures, or diagrams. If you have a higher score on auditory than visual, you tend to be an auditory learner. That is, you tend to learn more easily by hearing than by reading. A higher score in visual suggests strengths with visual modes of learning.

Section 2: Applied or Conceptual Learners

More A's in this section = Applied

More B's in this section = Conceptual

This score describes the types of learning task and learning situations you prefer and find most easy to handle. If you are an applied learner, you prefer tasks that involve real objects and situations. Practical, real-life learning situations are ideal for you. If you are a conceptual learner, you prefer to learn through languages and ideas. For you, practical applications are not necessary for understanding. If you have a higher score on applied

than conceptual, you tend to be an applied learner. That is, you tend to learn more easily by involving real objects and situations. A higher score in conceptual suggests you learn best using language and ideas.

Section 3: Spatial or Non-Spatial Learners

More A's in this section = Spatial

More B's in this section = Non- Spatial

This score reveals your ability to work with spatial relationships. Spatial learners are able to visualize or “mentally see” how things work or how they are positioned in space. Their strengths may include drawing, assembling things, or repairing. Non-spatial learners lack skills in positioning things in space. Instead, they tend to rely on verbal or language skills. If you have a higher score on spatial than non-spatial, you tend to be a spatial learner. That is, you tend to learn things more easily by visualizing or “mentally seeing” how things work. A higher score in non-spatial suggests you don't visualize as you learn but learn what is communicated in words.

Section 4: Social or independent Learners

More A's in this section = Social

More B's in this section = Independent

This score reveals your preferred level of interaction with other people in the learning process. If you are a social learner, you prefer to work with others –both peers and instructors –closely and directly. You tend to be people-oriented and enjoy personal interaction. If you are an independent learner, you prefer to work and study alone. You tend to be self-directed or self-motivated, and you are often goal oriented. If you have a higher score on social than independent, you tend to be a social learner. That is, you prefer working with others to learn. A higher score as an independent suggests that you prefer to learn while working alone.

Section 5: Creative or Pragmatic Learners

This score describes the approach you take toward learning tasks. Creative learners are imaginative and innovative. They prefer to learn through discovery or experimentation. They are comfortable taking risks and following hunches. Pragmatic learners are practical, logical, and systematic. They seek order and are comfortable following rules. If you have a higher score on creative than pragmatic, you tend to be a creative learner. That is, you prefer learning in situations involving discovery. A higher score as a pragmatic learner suggests that your strength is in a systematic, logical approach to your learning.

Adapted from Southwest Missouri State University web page

<http://www.smsu.edu/TRIO/Learning%20Styles%20Inventory.htm> with permission from S. Fiedler, 2001.