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VISUAL LEARNING STYLE

There are many ways to memorize the material. Which one is the best to use? First of all, you should find out what kind of learner you are. Great part of learners finds it easier to memorize information they see, that means they are visual learners, that is why here we are going to study this concept in details [5].

Let's start with the definition of Visual Learning Style. It is a way of learning in which information is associated with images. This learning style requires that learners first see what they are expected to know. People with a visual learning style are often referred to as visual learners (further VL) [4].

It is important to realize what VL are, so let's have a look at some general facts. The first one is as follows: the visual learner remembers 75% of what they read or see. Also demonstrations from the blackboard, diagrams, graphs and charts are all valuable tools for the visual learner. One more thing is that generally, global visual learners will process iconic (pictorial) information before reading the printed text.

In view of all this there are some learning strengths of the VL, and they are as follows:

- VLS remember what they read and write;
- VLS enjoy visual projects and presentations;
- VLS can remember diagrams, charts, maps well;
- VLS understand information best when they SEE it [3].

In the light of their strong points we can state that there are some learning and teaching strategies for VLS. Let's find out the Learning Strategies first.

1. Write down things that you want to remember. You will remember them better that way.
2. Look at the person who is speaking to you; it will help you focus.
3. Try to work in a quiet place. Wear earmuffs or earplugs if necessary. Some visual learners do, however, like soft music in the background.
4. If you miss something a teacher says or do not understand, ask politely if they could repeat or explain.
5. Most visual learners learn best alone.
6. When studying, take many notes and write down lots of details.
7. When trying to learn material by writing out notes, cover your notes then re-write. re-writing will help you remember better.
8. Use colour to highlight main ideas.
9. Before starting an assignment, set a goal and write it down. Even post in in front of you. Read it as you do your assignment.

10. Before reading a chapter or a book, preview it first by scanning the pictures, headings and so on.
11. Try to put your desk away from the door and windows and close to the front of the class.
12. Write your own flashcards. Look at them often and write out the main points, then check.
13. Where possible, use charts, maps, posters, films, videos, computer software to study from and to present your work (where appropriate).

One more thing is very important if you are going to work with visual learners, it is the list of Teaching Strategies for the VLs [1].

1. Provide lots of interesting visual material in a variety of formats.
2. Make sure visual presentations are well-organized.
3. During lessons, ensure auditory learners are in a position to hear well.
4. Make handouts and all other written work as visually appealing as possible, and easily read.
5. Make full use of a variety of technologies: computer, OHP, video camera, live video feeds/close circuit TV, photography, internet, etc. [2].

It is important to mention some features of VLs. The most vivid one is that VL prefers to see words written down and when something is being described, the visual learner also prefers to have a picture to view and prefers written instructions rather than verbal instructions. One more thing is if VL needs to memorize historical events he prefers a time-line or some other similar diagram. Moreover, VL observes all the physical elements in a classroom, so posters play great role for them as well as illustrative material and handouts. If to speak about their notes they carefully organize their learning materials (often in outline form) and enjoy decorating their learning areas. VL always remember and understand through the use of diagrams, charts and maps. Also, they enjoy visual art activities [3].

Knowing the features of VL makes it possible to help VL to memorize information easier. Here we give some tips.

- 1) ***Highlight your notes***. It means that using colors makes it easier to remember information. Moreover, it is possible to use different colors for different topics.
- 2) ***Convert your notes into Mind Maps***. There are different kinds of mind maps and their function is to illustrate the connections between the concepts and to enable the student to see “the whole picture” and to remember it.
- 3) ***Use graphic organizers***. Put the information in different kinds of tables; organize it according to the topic and your own preferences.
- 4) ***Memorize with pictures***. Use pictures to study difficult topics.
- 5) ***Use flashcards***. Flashcards may be used to learn new terms. Take a piece of paper, write down a term on one side, and on the other side write its definition.
- 6) ***Use a timeline and an outline***. Write down only the most important information; put it into chronological order. The outline should be logically built.

To sum up it should be mentioned that VL need the opportunity to see what they learn, and these methods may help them [1].

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