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Faculty of Letters and Foreign Languages  
Department of English Language



**Course:** Study skills

**Level:** First year LMD

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## EFL Styles of learners

**Objectives of the Lesson:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand each style of learning.
- Know possible differences in learning styles.
- Make a clear distinction between learning styles and learning strategies.

### Prerequisites

- Students should have a good command of English
- Students should be at least at a lower-intermediate level in English.

## Introduction

Instructors may encounter different types of learners which makes the process of learning a language more personal. In other words, all the EFL learners have their own styles of dealing with a language. Teacher should vary their techniques and lessons to reach the information to all types of students. In fact, we all experience the world in a unique way. Some students use a combination of strategies or a mix of learning styles to learn a language. It is a teachers' responsibility to adjust the lessons in order to suit each type of students. But what is the difference between learning styles and learning strategies?

1. **Learning strategies** are the specific mental and communicative procedures that learners employ in order to learn and use language (Chamot, 2005, O'Malley & Chamot, 1990). Learning strategies enable students to take more responsibilities of their own language learning and personal development. "Learners' proactive contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of their own learning" (Dörnyei, 2005, p. 166) is essential in developing skills in learning-how-to-learn.
2. **Learning styles** are general approaches to language learning, while learning strategies are specific ways to deal with language tasks in particular contexts (Cohen, 2003, Oxford, 2003).
3. **Types of learning styles:** according to Menik & Yuhendri (2016) there are three

types of learning styles which are:

**3.1. Visual (spatial)** as the name suggests, visual learners prefer the use of images, maps, visual media and graphic organizers to access and understand and process new information.

Visual learners are characterized by having good spatial awareness and sense of direction, they like coloring and drawing, capturing detail and remember what they saw.

**3. 2. Auditory (aural-musical):** It is a style in which auditory learners best understand new content through listening and speaking in situations such as lectures and group discussions. Aural learners use repetition as a study technique and benefit from the use of mnemonic devices. Unsurprisingly, many musicians are aural learners. Auditory learners are characterized by having a good sense of pitch or rhythm and they are skilled in oral presentations. They learn by listening and moving the lips and voice while reading and dialogue internally and externally.

**3.3. Kinesthetic (physical):** students who are kinesthetic learners best understand information through tactile representations of information. Physical learners are animated. These students are hands-on learners and learn best through figuring things out by hand. Physical learners are characterized by having high level of energy, and they perform well in art and drama touching people, stand close together and a lot of moves and learning by doing, pointing and responding physically.

## References

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