

See it. Hear it. Do it.



What Can We Learn from  
Learning Styles?



# Outline

- Learning Outcome: To understand our own learning style(LS) and how learners may differ in their orientation to learning
- Learn about different types of LS inventories
- Review of the Felder LSI



# Classifying Learning Styles

- Perceptual Modalities
- Information Processing
- Personality Patterns



# Perceptual Modalities

- Based on reactions to our physical environment
- Represent the way we learn new materials
  - Visual, auditory, kinesthetic, multi-modal



# Information Processing

- The processing of new information through:
  - Perception
  - Organization
  - Retention



# Personality Patterns

- Our attention, emotion, and values
- The way we are likely to react to new information (or different situations)



See it.

## ■ Visual learners – how they learn

- Learn best through seeing.
- Verbal stimuli: relate most effectively to material presented in written language format.
- Nonverbal stimuli: relate most effectively to material presented in picture or design format.
- Often rely on body language and facial expressions to understand the content of a lesson (hint: they sit at the front of the classroom)



About **60%**  
of the population are *seeing it*.





# Hear it.

- **Verbal or Auditory learners – how they learn**
  - Learn best through verbal lectures, discussion, talking things through and listening to what others say.
  - Interpret the underlying meaning of speech through listening to tone of voice, pitch, speed and other nuances.



About 30%

of the population are *hearing it*.



Do it.

- **The Kinesthetic Learner – how they learn**
  - Learn best through a hands-on approach, actively exploiting the physical world around them.
  - Kinesthetic: learning process engages the body
  - Tactile: learning process engages the sense of touch
  - Assimilate skills through imitation and practice.



About 5% of the population are  
*doing it.*



# Felder: Active versus reflective learners

- **ACTIVE:** Learn by doing--discussing and applying ideas or talking to others
  - Like group work, problem-solving
  - “Let’s try it out”
- **REFLECTIVE:** Learn by thinking things through quietly
  - Like to work on own and find it helpful to write summaries of material or come up with possible applications
  - “Let’s make sure we’ve thought this through”



# Felder: Sensing vs Intuitive learners

- **SENSING:** Like learning facts and solving problems by well-established methods--no surprises-good at memorizing facts-like lab work—"How does this relate to the real world"
- **INTUITIVE:** Like discovering possibilities and relationships--like innovation and dislike repetition-like abstract thinking--good at math formulas -work quickly
  - “All we did was plug and chug assignments”



# Felder: Visual vs Verbal

- VISUAL: Learn best what they see
  - Like diagrams, flow charts or videos-colour code or highlight notes “Show me the systems you are talking about”
- VERBAL: Learn from words (written or spoken)
  - Learn best when write summaries in your own words--learn well in groups by teaching others
  - “Explain what is going on inside the system”



# Felder: Sequential vs global

- **SEQUENTIAL:** Follow logical stepwise paths to solutions
  - Take the time to outline the lecture material(fill in the gaps) “ I need to focus on one step of the project before going on to the next”
- **GLOBAL:** Learn in large jumps-need to see the big picture before you can master details
  - So skim reading material first --immerse yourself in one subject for large blocks of time--may have difficulty explaining to others how you got the answer –” I need to see how this all fits together before I can begin”





# Teaching Perspectives Inventory

- 5 common perspectives on teaching adults
- Look at the sheet of results to see which is your dominant perspective
- Check for internal consistency between Beliefs, Intentions and Actions



# Questions to Discipline Groups

- How similar are you to one another?
- How might your LS effect how you teach?
- Do you think you learn the way your students learn?
- How might your LS effect how your students learn?
- How might you change your teaching style to be more inclusive of learner needs?
- What perspective on teaching do you bring to your teaching?(see TPI scores)



# Learning Style Inventories

## ■ Perceptual Modalities

- [Vark Learning](#)
- [Auditory, Visual, or Tactile Processing](#)
- [Felder Index of Learning Styles](#)



# Learning Style Inventories

## ■ Information Processing

- [Multiple Intelligences Approach](#)
- [Kolb Learning Style Inventory](#)



# Learning Style Inventories

- Personality Patterns

- [Keirsey Temperament Sorter](#)