Educational Concepts

(Learning Styles)

Linda Marshall

30 July 2015
A learning style is:

“… an individual’s natural or habitual pattern of acquiring and processing information in learning situations.”

[Wikipedia, 2014]
“Learning styles group common ways that people learn. Everyone has a mix of learning styles. Some people may find that they have a dominant style of learning, with far less use of the other styles. Others may find that they use different styles in different circumstances. There is no right mix. Nor are your styles fixed. You can develop ability in less dominant styles, as well as further develop styles that you already use well.”

[Advanogy.com, 2004]
Schools of thought with regards to the origins of learning styles [Clark, 2011]:

- Perceptual modality - reaction to the physical environment
- Information processing - how we think and how we process information
- Personality models - how we interact with our surroundings. The environment generally overrides personality.
1. David Kolb’s model
2. Peter Honey and Alan Mumford’s model
3. Neil Fleming’s VAK/VARK model
4. Other models...
David Kolb’s model

- Kolb’s model is based on his Experimental Learning Theory (ELT)
- ELT comprises of two modes, each with two approaches
Grasping Experience mode

Concrete Experience approach

Abstract Conceptualisation approach

Reflective Observation approach

Active Experimentation approach

Transforming Experience mode
Kolb identified learning 4 learning styles, a combination of 2 modes and 2 approaches

- Diverger
- Converger
- Accommodator
- Assimilator

An ideal learning process engages all 4 approaches
Learning styles - (i) [Wikipedia, 2014]:

- Convergers are good at making practical applications of ideas and using deductive reasoning to solve problems.
- Divergers tend toward concrete experience and reflective observation. They are imaginative and are good at coming up with ideas and seeing things from different perspectives.
Learning styles -(ii):

- Assimilators are capable of creating theoretical models by means of inductive reasoning.
- Accommodators are good at actively engaging with the world and actually doing things instead of merely reading about and studying them.
Learning Styles

- **Introduction**
- **Models**
  - David Kolb’s model
  - Honey and Mumford’s model
  - Fleming’s VARK model
  - Others

**Grasping Experience mode**

- Concrete Experience approach
- Abstract Conceptualisation approach

**Transforming Experience mode**

- Reflective Observation approach
- Active Experimentation approach
Effective learning takes place through a 4 stage cycle
Honey and Mumford’s model

- Derived from David Kolb’s model in the mid 70’s
- Aimed at managers in business to maximise own personal learning
Philosophy behind the style [University of Leicester, 2013]:

Each learner should:

- have an understanding of their learning style; and
- use this learning style in opportunities that may arise.
Learning styles:

- **Activist** - learn by doing
- **Theorist** - understand the theory behind the actions
- **Pragmatist** - need to put the learning into practice in the real world
- **Reflector** - learn by observing and thinking of what happened
Introduction

Models

Assessment methods

Conclusion

David Kolb’s model
Honey and Mumford’s model
Fleming’s VARK model
Others

Lecture 02 Learning Styles

Taken from: http://www.nwlink.com/~donclark/hrd/styles/honey_mumford.html
Fleming’s VARK model

V : visual learners
A : auditory learners
R : reading-writing preference learners
K : kinesthetic learners or tactile learners
[Advanogy.com, 2004] include:

- Logical
- Social
- Solitary

to the VARK model.
Assessment of learning styles is usually done by means of a questionnaire.

- Honey and Mumford questionnaire
- VA(R)K questionnaire
- VARK http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/
- Memletics Learning Styles Questionnaire http://www.learning-styles-online.com/inventory/
The VARK Questionnaire
How Do I Learn Best?

VARK Questionnaire version 7.1

Choose the answer which best explains your preference and click the box next to it. Please click more than one if a single answer does not match your perception. Leave blank any question that does not apply.

You have finished a competition or test and would like some feedback. You would like to have feedback:

- using a written description of your results.
- using graphs showing what you had achieved.
- from somebody who talks it through with you.
- using examples from what you have done.

You are helping someone who wants to go to your airport, the center of town or railway station. You would:

- use a map to show where to go.
- give clear instructions to follow.
- watch the person until they reach their destination.
- ask someone to show you the way.

Latest News

New VARK Profiles

Watch for some new style VARK Profiles. We are planning to launch some new VARK Profiles that Read On!→

Testimonials

The main advantage of focusing on the VARK modal preferences is that both students and teachers can adjust their behaviours to use modal preferences positively in learning and teaching.
The pig (VARK) and I

The VARK Questionnaire
Your VARK Results

Your scores were:
- Visual 7
- Aural 3
- Read/Write 4
- Kinesthetic 2

You have a mild visual learning preference.

Use the following pages for study strategies that apply to your learning preference:

• Visual Strategies
**Paper-based questionnaires**

**Online questionnaires**

### (Me) in Memletics

#### Style Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aural</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logical</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Learning Styles Graph

- **More Options**
  - [Edit your answers](#)
  - [Update your profile](#)
  - [User Menu](#)
Schools of thought with regards to the origins of learning styles - revisited:

- Perceptual modality - VARK
- Information processing - Honey and Mumford
- Personality models - Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument, DISC assessment
No single style ensures that all needs of the learner are met.

Learning environments must be adaptable.

Multiple learning styles must be considered to keep learners interested and engaged.
University of Leicester (2013). Honey and Mumford.
http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/gradschool/training/resources/teaching/theories/honey/
References IV

discretionary{}{}{}{}mumford, Last visited 1 August 2013.