

What type of learner are you? (Speaking Extra, CUP 2004)

Many psychologists believe that different people learn in different ways. Answer the questions and find out how you learn. Score each question from 1 to 5.

1 almost never 2 not usually 3 sometimes 4 often 5 usually

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| 1. Doing projects is easier than writing essays | 2. I forget things if I don't write them down |
| 3. I like to finish a job before I start the next one | 4. I make notes in class but I don't read them later |
| 5. I move my hands a lot when I am talking | 6. I need to have a lot of breaks when I'm studying |
| 7. I prefer to go somewhere quiet when I study | 8. I'm not very tidy but I know where my things are |
| 9. It's easy to see pictures in my head | 10. It's hard to see pictures in my head |
| 11. Maps are easy to understand | 12. Music helps me study |
| 13. Seeing a person talking is a lot better than listening to tapes | |
| 14. When I read, I hear the words in my head | 15. Talking about things helps me to understand them |

How to find your score:

Write your scores. Then find the total for each type. If one total is a lot bigger, that is the type you are. If two or more scores are similar, you are a mixed type.

Questions:	Questions:	Questions
2	3	1
7	10	4
9	12	5
11	14	6
13	15	8
Total V score	Total A score	Total H score

<p>V Visual type: You learn by reading information or seeing pictures or diagrams. Looking at your teachers when they speak can help you understand.</p> <p>Some ideas that might help:</p> <p>Write information down and make lots of notes. Look at your notes and copy them again in a more organized way. Use coloured pens to show the important information. Ask your teacher to say things again when you do not understand. Sit near the front of the class, but not near the windows or door.</p>	<p>A Auditory type: You learn by hearing information. Speaking about ideas helps you study. Listening to recording is good too.</p> <p>Some ideas that might help:</p> <p>Before you read a text, look at the headings and any pictures. Talk to yourself or a friend about what it will say. Do homework and revise with a friend so you can talk about your work. When there are things you want to remember, say them to yourself several times. Make recordings of your notes, and listen to them to study.</p>	<p>H Haptic type: You learn by moving around and doing things. Touching and feeling things can help you study. Using colours is also good.</p> <p>Some ideas that might help:</p> <p>When you are studying, work for about 25 minutes and then relax for 5 minutes. Do not watch TV or talk on the phone. Then go back to your studies.</p> <p>When there are things you want to remember, walk around while you say them to yourself or read them. Cover your desk with a big sheet of coloured paper to put your books on. Study with music playing.</p>
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17

Student life

A Courses and qualifications



When she was a small child, Amelia's teachers identified her as having unusual intelligence and remarkable **mental agility**¹, and they put her on a special programme for **gifted children**. Amelia **won a scholarship** to attend a local grammar school. By the age of eighteen, she was a **straight A student**², and she secured a **place**³ at one of the country's most prestigious seats of learning⁴ to read⁵ English Literature.

In the first academic year of the English Literature programme, the **core subjects**⁶ were *The development of the novel* and *Contemporary poetry*. Amelia had a large number of **set texts**⁷ to read. It was hard work but she loved it. Her professors were all **distinguished scholars** and her courses were taught by some of the world's **leading authorities** in the field. She completed her studies with considerable success and **graduated from university** last year. In the meantime, her parents have decided that it is time they made up for their lack of **formal education** and they have **signed up** for a number of evening courses⁸. Eventually they hope to **meet the entry requirements** for university entrance and to be able to complete a degree as **mature students**⁹.

¹ ability to think quickly and clearly

² a student who always gets very good marks

³ (formal) was accepted as a student;
(informal: got a place)

⁴ (very formal) educational institution
with a very good reputation

⁵ (formal and increasingly old-fashioned) do or study

⁶ subjects which all the students on the course
have to do

⁷ specific books which students must study

⁸ or enrolled on ... courses

⁹ students who are older than average

B Harry's school report

Mathematics	Harry's work has shown a marked improvement this term. However, his attention occasionally wanders in class.
English	Harry has a natural talent for English. He achieved full marks ¹ in the last class test.
French	There is room for improvement in Harry's work in French. He seems to find it difficult to learn vocabulary by heart .
Geography	Harry has a thirst for knowledge and is a quick learner . It is a pity that sometimes his concentration in class wavers ² .
Science	Harry has demonstrated an ability to apply what he learns to the wider world. He showed considerable initiative in the way he approached his project on energy.
Physical Education	Although Harry has a proven ability ³ for tennis, he will not make any progress until he stops playing truant ⁴ . This must not continue.

¹ 100%

² concentration is not steady

³ ability shown by his achievements

⁴ being absent without permission



You attend school to **acquire knowledge**, NOT get knowledge.

Exercises

17.1 Answer the questions using collocations from A.

- 1 What happens when you successfully complete a degree course?
- 2 What do you call students who are in their thirties or older?
- 3 What are, for example, Harvard, the Sorbonne and Cambridge University?
- 4 What kind of people teach at Harvard, the Sorbonne and Cambridge University?
- 5 What do you call children who are particularly intelligent or have special talents?
- 6 What do you call students whose marks are always excellent?

17.2 Match the beginning of each sentence with its ending.

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|--|---------------|
| 1 We were all very impressed by the student's mental | heart. |
| 2 My grandmother is very intelligent but she's had little formal | place. |
| 3 I've never found it easy to learn scientific formulae by | education. |
| 4 I'd love to study medicine there but it's very hard to get a | ability. |
| 5 For the first year Shakespeare exam we had to read six set | requirements. |
| 6 I am so proud of you for managing to get full | agility. |
| 7 Your work is not too bad but there is certainly still room for | learner. |
| 8 Your little girl has shown herself to be a very quick | marks. |
| 9 The test has been designed to enable pupils to demonstrate their | texts. |
| 10 I hope to study there but I may not be able to meet the entry | improvement. |

17.3 Complete this teacher's letter to the parents of a problem pupil.

Dear Mr and Mrs Wolf,

We are very concerned about Peter's behaviour. He has played (1) from school three times this month and has been seen in town in school hours. When he does come to class, his attention (2) and he does not seem able to concentrate on his lessons. He does not seem to understand the work and yet he never asks any questions or requests any help. The only time he (3) any initiative is in devising excuses for not having done his homework. Although he has a (4) talent for art, he is not even taking any interest in art lessons.

This is disappointing, as last year there was a (5) improvement in Peter's work and we hoped he might (6) a scholarship. However, unless he starts to (7) school regularly and to put more effort into his studies, he will certainly not even meet the (8) for the college course he has plans to (9) on next year.

I would be grateful if you could come into school to discuss this situation further.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas Chips
(Headteacher)

17.4 Answer these questions.

- 1 What are the core subjects for pupils at primary school in your country?
- 2 What would you say are the most prestigious seats of learning in your country?
- 3 Have you ever signed up for a course that you didn't complete?
- 4 If you could take a degree course now, what subject would you like to read?
- 5 When does the academic year begin and end in your country?
- 6 What do you need to do to secure a place at university in your country?

17.5 Use a dictionary to find different words to complete each collocation.



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|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 a thirst for | 3 his wavers |
| 2 join a | 4 proven |