

Evelyn Thorson

Michael Cassens

Creative Coding

9 September 2024

Learning Styles

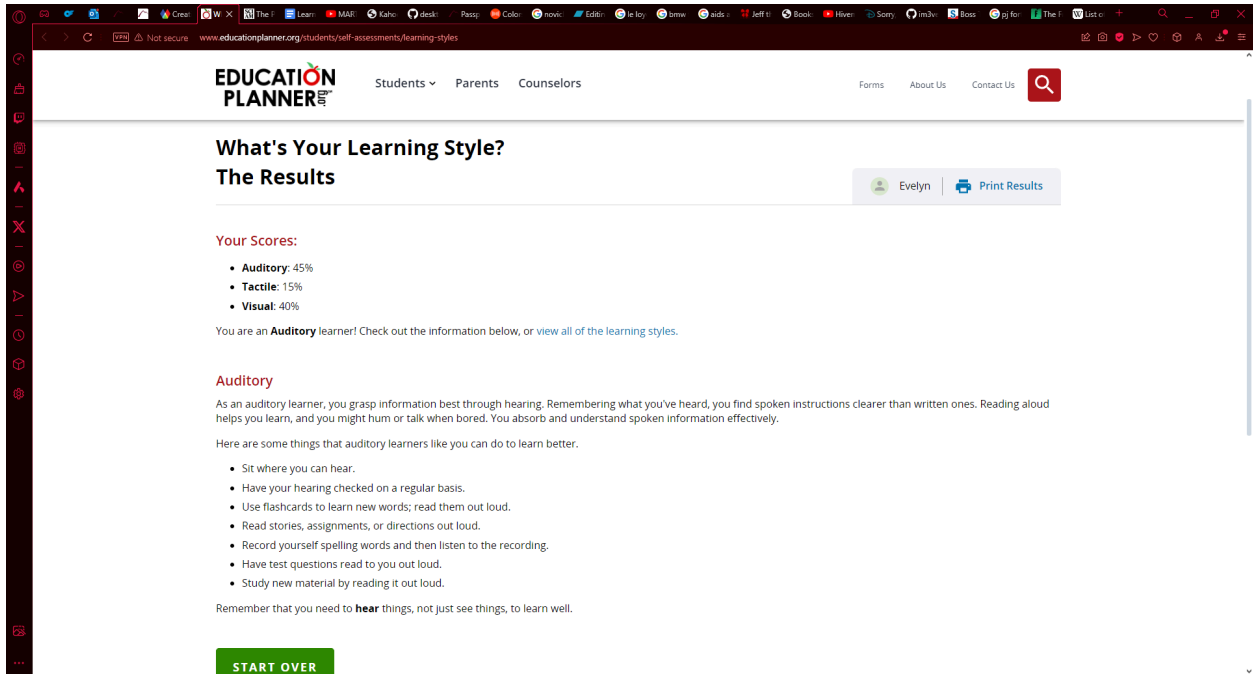
Throughout my academic life I've heard plenty of teachers and students talk about their "learning styles," and what those "styles" supposedly meant for them. I know that for myself, learning styles are of the utmost importance. I am on the autism spectrum, and have incredible difficulty taking in new information if it is not something that I've read or watched. I've gotten into trouble at different jobs because I simply cannot wrap my head around verbal instructions; I need to have it written down *in detail*. Even in my home life, if I have to make myself food, I sometimes have emotional meltdowns because the process simply stresses me out so much. If the instructions aren't "microwave for x minutes" or "preheat the oven to y degrees and bake for z minutes or until golden brown," I simply search the fridge for whatever I can snack on to sustain me.

I understand that "learning styles" are often used by students who simply want a quick excuse for why they can't do something, but to me, they're an absolute necessity, and this is reflected in my grades throughout all of my school years. I've consistently performed worse in classes where verbal instruction is a common teaching method (such as mathematics or science classes), and performed excellently in classes having to do with reading, writing, and watching different instructional/academic materials (such as language classes, writing classes, and media arts classes).

I will note that different learning styles are advantageous to me depending on the subject matter. In terms of spoken instruction, I can seldom remember a single thing I'm told, but when learning anything musical, I've always been one to "play by ear." My favorite instrument to play is guitar, and I have never had a single lesson, nor have I watched any tutorials for different playing techniques. I simply listen to the music that I want to emulate, and I gain an understanding of how the guitarist is doing what they are doing. When it comes to memories, the strongest ones are always associated with what I was eating at the time; for example, a burger at an open-air beachfront restaurant constructed of logs and a straw roof in Sayulita, Mexico, or a bowl of steamed rice in a small sushi shop in Tokyo, Japan.

When I was given my neuropsychological evaluation last year, my results reflected what I had already known about myself. In mathematics-related tests, my scores were at or below average, but in the language comprehension field, my score was the highest that the doctor had ever seen in her entire time administering these tests, meaning that my score ranked above those of well over 5,000 other people. If you're curious (or if you're not), my IQ averaged out to 131, and I was granted an autism diagnosis.

To summarize, while I cannot speak to the academic or learning needs of people without autism, I can absolutely say that many people with autism do benefit from adhering to their specific learning styles.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the Education Planner website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles. The website has a navigation bar with links for Students, Parents, and Counselors, and a search icon. The main heading is "What's Your Learning Style? The Results". Below this, a user profile for Evelyn is shown with a "Print Results" button. The "Your Scores:" section lists: Auditory: 45%, Tactile: 15%, and Visual: 40%. A message states: "You are an **Auditory** learner! Check out the information below, or [view all of the learning styles](#)." The "Auditory" section explains that auditory learners grasp information best through hearing and provides a list of tips: sit where you can hear, have hearing checked, use flashcards, read stories out loud, record spelling words, have test questions read to you, and study new material by reading it out loud. A reminder says: "Remember that you need to **hear** things, not just see things, to learn well." At the bottom is a green "START OVER" button.

EDUCATION PLANNER

Students ▾ Parents Counselors

Forms About Us Contact Us

What's Your Learning Style?

The Results

Evelyn Print Results

Your Scores:

- **Auditory:** 45%
- **Tactile:** 15%
- **Visual:** 40%

You are an **Auditory** learner! Check out the information below, or [view all of the learning styles](#).

Auditory

As an auditory learner, you grasp information best through hearing. Remembering what you've heard, you find spoken instructions clearer than written ones. Reading aloud helps you learn, and you might hum or talk when bored. You absorb and understand spoken information effectively.

Here are some things that auditory learners like you can do to learn better.

- Sit where you can hear.
- Have your hearing checked on a regular basis.
- Use flashcards to learn new words; read them out loud.
- Read stories, assignments, or directions out loud.
- Record yourself spelling words and then listen to the recording.
- Have test questions read to you out loud.
- Study new material by reading it out loud.

Remember that you need to **hear** things, not just see things, to learn well.

START OVER