Lingoda

COMMUNICATION

Talking about learning styles and preferences

LEVEL
Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER
EN_B1_1123X

LANGUAGE
English

Learning outcomes

- I can describe different learning styles and identify my own preferred learning style.

- I can talk about different methods for learning a language and talk about my experiences with them.

Warm-up

Describe the picture briefly and discuss your thoughts as a class. What are some problems for the teacher of this class? What would *you* do if you were the teacher?

What kind of learner am I?

Write down your answers to this quiz. You'll need them for your results on the next slide.

1 When I'm learning something new, it helps to...

    a. use coloured pens   b. read aloud   c. make up a song   d. look for patterns

2 When I'm learning something new, I like to...

    a. use flashcards   b. listen to music   c. read a detailed description   d. make tables

3 When I'm trying to memorise a new word, I...

    a. highlight the word   b. use sound recordings   c. use crosswords or wordsearches   d. make a memory game

4 I learn best by...

    a. looking at information   b. listening to information   c. writing down information   d. solving problems
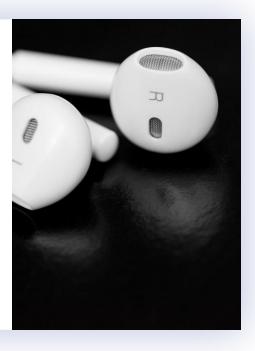
Let's take a look at your results!

Take a look at the quiz results and see what kind of learner you are. Then answer the questions down below.

- If you answered mostly **a**, then you are a **visual learner**! You respond well to flashcards, pictures and written texts. You like to organise information in an engaging way.
- If you answered mostly **b**, then you are an **aural learner!** You like to discuss ideas with classmates and to listen to lectures or podcasts.
- If you answered mostly **c**, then you are a **verbal learner!** You like to write down examples and learn them by heart.
- If you answered mostly **d**, then you are a **logical learner!** You enjoy tables, sequences, and learn by problem solving. You might enjoy memory games.

1. Do you agree with your results? Why or why not?
2. What are some difficulties you have with your learning style?
3. Are there any other learning methods you would like to try?

I learn by doing, like finding recipes in the language I'm learning.

I don't like books. I prefer to learn through trial-and-error.

I stick new words to my fridge to help me learn them by heart.

What are some skills that are easier to **learn by doing**?

Can you think of a skill you learn by making mistakes?

Have you ever learned anything **by heart**? What was it?

by + verb + *-ing*

Read the examples and **answer** the questions in the blue box.

If I had time, I'd expand my vocabulary by listening to more podcasts.

I learn by working things out for myself and making lots of mistakes!

I learn best by memorising song lyrics and singing in the shower.

- Identify the verbs that follow the preposition *by* in the examples above. Which verb is **reflexive**?

- Can you identify the **2nd conditional** sentence in the examples?

- What is another way of saying *to memorise* something?

Practise *by* + verb + *-ing*

How do you learn best? Rank these language learning activities from 1–4 in order of how effective they are (1 = most effective; 4 = least effective). Then, use the phrase *to learn + by + verb (–ing form)* to describe your preferred learning techniques.

to write explanations of grammar topics

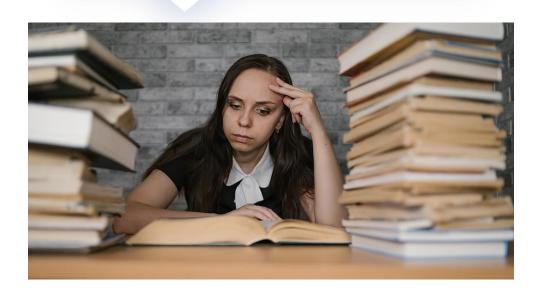to use new language in a real-life situation as soon as I can

to create mind-maps and diagrams

to take part in group activities and games

My goal is to be able to read a book in English without looking up every second word!

Have you **set yourself** any big language learning **goals**?

I **set targets** I can achieve. For example, to read a book in English that I've already read in my native language by the end of the year.

What are some **targets** you can **set** to help you reach your learning goals?
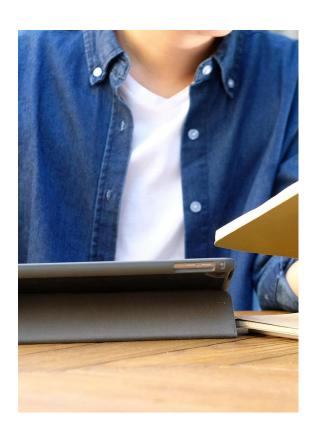
Tips to help you achieve your goals

1. **Divide** into pairs and **read through** these tips.
2. **Decide** which are your top 3 tips as a pair in your **breakout room**.
3. **Return** to class after 5 minutes and **share** your top 3 with everyone.

Learning by making mistakes	Listening to the radio in the language I'm learning	Recording myself saying new words
Having lunch with a native speaker once a week	Carrying a small dictionary around	Organising new vocabulary into lists
Setting realistic targets	Watching other people talk	Learning the 100 most common words

Discuss

Answer the questions below and discuss as a group.

How do you continue your language learning outside the classroom?

Do you find it easy to practise your language skills in real life? Why or why not?

What advice would you give to a student who wants to start learning a language?

What would your top three tips be?

Let's reflect!

- Can you describe different learning styles and identify my own learning style?

- Can you talk about different methods for learning a language and talk about my experiences with them?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.

End of the lesson

Idiom

*Online classes have **broken down barriers** preventing people from returning to education.*

Meaning: to improve opportunities, communication and understanding

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Additional practice

Match the picture

Match the picture to the language learning goal. **E.g.** *I want to get better at...*

1

2

3

4

5

6

a understanding English TV

b socialising in English

c completing forms in English

d translating into English

e giving presentations in English

f writing emails in English

How do you learn?

Make a list of five ways you learn, using vocabulary from the lesson. This does not have to be a language – it can be any skill. Which technique is most effective? Rank the list in order of effectiveness (1=most effective and 5=least effective). You can use the questions in the red box to help.

Do you learn through trial-and-error?

Do you use technology to learn?

Do you learn anything by heart?

Do you like to work things out for yourself?

Using *by* + verb *-ing* to talk about learner types

Ask and **answer** questions about learner types using the **example sentences** and **vocabulary** below.

Are you a/an _____ or _____ learner?
How do you learn languages?

I am a _____.
I learn languages by _____.

- talk
- listen
- write
- make
- draw
- do
- practise
- play

by + verb -ing

Read the example sentences. Identify the verbs that follow *by*. **Build** your own sentence using the phrase *by + verb -ing*

1 I practise my fluency by talking to my English-speaking flatmates.

2 If I could afford it, I would improve my Spanish pronunciation by travelling to South America.

3 If I had known I was a visual learner when I was at school, I would have learned languages by making flashcards and drawing mind maps.

4 I enjoy learning by working something out and solving problems.
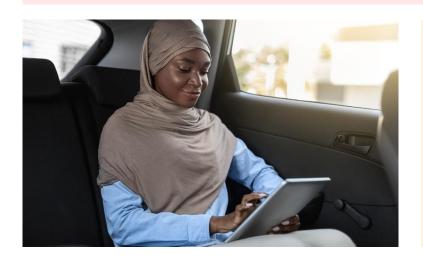
Discuss

How do you think technology has changed the way people learn?

Do you think technology has made people more active or passive learners?

Active and passive learning

Answer the two questions below. What can you remember about active and passive learning?

Active learning

How would you describe active learning?

Active learning involves...

Passive learning is...

Passive learning

How would you describe passive learning?

- learning-by-doing
- trial-and-error
- to learn by heart
- individual study
- group activities
- to test oneself
- note-taking

Answer key

P.17: 1. (d) 2. (e) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (f) 6. (c)

Summary

There are different styles of learning:
- aural, visual, logical, and verbal

Different learning techniques suit different learning styles:
- trial-and-error, learning-by-doing, to work something out
- learning-by-heart, to test oneself

by + **verb-*ing:***
- I learn vocabulary by making flashcards.
- I improve my fluency by listening to English podcasts.

Knowing your learning style can help you set language learning goals:
- I want to improve my public speaking by talking more during meetings at work.
- I will build my vocabulary by playing language games with my flatmates.

Vocabulary

visual learner	learning-by-doing
aural learner	trial-and-error
physical learner	to learn something by heart
flashcards	translation
to read aloud	to translate
crosswords	to test yourself
logical learner	to work something out
verbal learner	mind map
bilingual dictionary	

Notes