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## British International School Riyadh

### The art of finding your learning style

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Most [students](#) only begin to think about learning styles after realising they have been staring into space for a while not learning anything.

When this happens could be a good indication of what your learning style is. If you find your mind wandering during a lecture, you are probably not the kind of student who learns best by listening. If it happens during a PowerPoint presentation using lots of funky graphics, you may not be the kind of student who learns best by visualising. If it's during a lab experiment, then you're not the kinaesthetic kind. And if it happens in each of these situations, you're probably not the kind of student who is going to get a degree.

It is therefore worth giving some thought to how you learn.

Auditory learners tend to pick up information most easily when they hear it or talk about it. It is therefore unwise for them to skip going to lectures, seminars, tutorials, the student bar and all those other places where people may be discussing useful information.

Of course, it's unwise to avoid any of these things even if you are more of a visual learner. That's because you may miss out on seeing the lecturer's mannerisms and flipcharts, and won't be able to recall essential facts by remembering where you were sitting in the room when you heard them.

And if you are the kind of learner who can't sit still for long, attending classes will still help because, let's face it, you're not going to be spending much time swotting in a library. At least in a lecture you may discover a few case studies you can get your teeth into, or even have the chance to get actively involved, if only by putting your hand up to ask questions.

Then there's making notes. Some students may prefer to use a tape recorder. Others will favour mindmaps and highlighter pens, while a few will want to reenact a seminar using a variety of voices and a few props.

Different approaches to revision also suit different types of learner. For some, endlessly copying and recopying their notes does the trick, while others prefer regular conversations over coffee about how difficult it is to get down to looking at notes. Others seem to thrive best on plenty of study breaks.

In fact, most people learn in a combination of ways so it is wise to experiment with different techniques and not to become fixed on a single method.

And remember, you should not spend so much time thinking about how you learn that you don't have any time left for actually learning.