

How You LEARN

You've thought about how you study. Now it would be good to think about how you learn. Just as you dress and talk in your own style, so do you learn in your own style.

Some kids do better in school not because they are smarter than everyone else but because they learn better than other kids in the type of school situation where they find themselves. School success is not so much a result of how smart you are but of how you get smart. Once you know how you get smart, you can get even smarter - faster and easier.

How well you learn something depends on how you do it, how often you do it, and how hard you try. Take this survey about conditions that make you learn your best. You can circle as many letters for each question as you want. There are no wrong answers. This is just a survey to get you thinking about your learning style. Once you know your style, you can work to improve it.

1. I learn best by
 - a. watching
 - b. listening
 - c. writing things down
 - d. acting things out
 - e. teaching other people
2. I prefer to prepare for tests
 - a. with other people
 - b. by myself
3. I do my homework
 - a. one subject at a time
 - b. switching back and forth among many subjects

4. I like to improve my skills (such as musical instruments or sports)
 - a. by reading about famous people with those skills
 - b. by practicing on my own
 - c. by practicing with a team or group
 - d. by trying to figure out new things for myself
5. I study best
 - a. at the last minute – stress makes me work better
 - b. by pacing myself over time – I'd rather avoid the stress
6. I like to study
 - a. when it is very quiet
 - b. with music playing
7. I like to ask questions that begin with
 - a. what
 - b. who
 - c. when
 - d. how
 - e. why

After you finish the survey, look at your answers. Do any of them surprise you? Do your friends learn the same way you do? Are there opportunities in school for people to try learning in different ways?



Use News To Build Skills

Learning standards: organizing information, writing descriptions

How do you memorize things? Try this activity to see how your memory tools work. Choose some statistics from the Sports section. Study them for a few moments and try to remember as much as you can. After a few minutes, write down what you remember. Then think about what you did to help remember the numbers. Did you jot notes? Did you picture them in your head? Did you try to remember chunks at a time? Write a description of your memory strategy.