Vocabulary Study Strategies

Utilizing Your Learning Modalities

Introduction:

All information about the environment around us must enter through our senses (smell, taste, vision, hearing, and touch). Vision, hearing, and touch are the main senses we use in learning. These are the Learning Modalities. Every individual uses each of these modalities to bring in information for processing. As time passes, we all develop a preference for the modality we use often. For each learner, their primary modality can identify them as being an auditory learner (hearing), visual learner (vision) or tactile/kinesthetic learner (touch). Once identified, strategies for study, note taking and exam performance may be created or enhanced.

Though many of us are dominate in a particular modality, learning is most effective when two or more modalities are used together. It is important when studying to utilize strategies that combine the modalities.

Auditory/Kinesthetic

-say the word aloud while writing it on a whiteboard
-create a game in which you must say a definition and then race across the room to find the matching term
-listen to a recording of the terms while moving around (jumping, walking, throwing a ball against wall)
-recite definitions while moving around

Visual/Kinesthetic

-create a matching game using the terms and a picture
-use the notecards to create dice, roll the dice and match the word to its definition
-create a “pictionary” style game in which you draw a picture and partner must guess the term

Visual/Auditory

-recite a definition aloud and then write the definition on a whiteboard
-act out mini skits in which the word can be “seen” in action
-draw a picture of the term and then explain how it shows the meaning
-create rhymes that correspond to a picture of the term

***These are just a few possibilities. Look at the other strategies listed and find creative ways to combine them.***

Other Study Tips:

-determine what you already know and focus only on what you still are struggling with
-chunk the information into smaller pieces, work with a handful of the terms at a time
-make associations with things that you already know
-try a variety of strategies to find what works for you
-don’t wait until the last moment, utilize your study strategies throughout the week
Auditory

- When trying to remember something, you can often "hear" the way someone told you the information, or the way you previously repeated it out loud.
- You learn best when interacting with others in a listening/speaking exchange.
- Find a quiet place to study so you can hear yourself (listen to soft music to dampen out distractions)
- Study by yourself or in small groups & explain out loud

Listening Learner

- When trying recall information, you often “hear” it in your head
- You comprehend and remember information better when it is presented verbally
- Background music may help drown out distractions

  - Record yourself (GarageBand)
    - Make audio quiz
    - Read sentences or definitions
    - Listen to the recording on the bus, before bed, before test
  - Create songs or rhymes for words (ex: I winced, I flinched, my whole face clenched)
  - Study by having the words said out loud
  - Try using additional strategies listed below for verbal learners
  - Create a rhythm for the words and recite to that rhythm

Verbal Learner

- In order to process information, you must talk and discuss
- You need to actually say the words rather than hear someone else
  **** Verbalize as much as possible ****

  - Create skits that act out definitions
  - Recite everything out loud in order to “hear” it
  - Create word associations and talk through them
  - Quiz in small group by reciting definitions or words aloud
  - Read note cards aloud, recite over and over
  - Group similar words & rehearse together
  - Try using strategies listed above for listening learners

- Sullen = upset
- Sullen sounds like stolen
- I would be upset if I had something stolen

- Emotions:
  - Vicious
  - Sullen
  - Jovial
  - Ecstatic

- Time:
  - Interminable
  - Intermittent
  - Fleeting
  - Abrupt
**Visual**

**Picture (non-verbal)**
- When trying to remember something, you can often visualize a picture of it in your mind.
- You tend to like to work in a quiet room and may not like to work in study groups.

***As much as possible, translate words and ideas into symbols, pictures, and diagrams.***

- Make flashcards of key information. Draw symbols and pictures on the cards.
- Use highlighter pens to highlight key words and pictures on the flashcards.
- Limit the amount of information per card, so your mind can take a mental "picture" of the information.
- Use graphic organizers and charts
- Group similar words together and color code

**Print (verbal)**
- You learn best when information is presented visually and in a written language format.
- You often see information "in your mind's eye" when you are trying to remember something. (you must be able to see the information written out)
- Studying by yourself in a quiet room is optimal

- Color code your words and definitions
- Organize the terms into groups and study them in chunks (color code)
- Quiz by writing out key words on white board
- Limit the amount of information in order to “take” a mental picture
- Use charts or other graphic organizers to frame key ideas (use color to highlight relationships)

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**WORD SQUARE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>My Connection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What It Means</td>
<td>How It Looks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**recompense**

**interminable**

**sullen** 😞
Tactile-Kinesthetic

- You learn best when you can be physically active in the learning environment.
- You learn best when physically engaged in a "hands on" activity where you can manipulate materials to learn new information.
- Take frequent breaks and chunk the information
- Organize study space to have room to move around
- Chew gum or eat while studying, this provides some kinesthetic relief

Hands on Learner

- Learns best through hands on activities such as constructing, assembling, matching, etc.

- When creating flash cards put word and definition on separate cards (not front/back)
- Create a game using flash cards that requires moving them around
  - Matching/memory game
  - Construct dice out of definition flash cards
- Carry flashcards with you and study throughout the day
- Utilize study games on Moodle and vocabworkshop that require moving the words around the screen

Whole Body Learner

- Need to act out, walk around, play, exercise, build demonstrate to help memorize

- Act out skits that utilize and demonstrate the vocabulary
- Create a game that requires walking around the room to match definitions (quiz time: mentally picture yourself walking to the word/definition)
- Create a racing game that requires retrieving the definition/word from across the room
- Walk around the room while reading through flash cards
- Utilize stressball or other physical stimulus when studying.
- Study words in different rooms or different parts of a room (quiz time: mentally picture yourself in that part of the room)
- Create mini-motion, gestures, expressions for the words. Do the motions while studying and while taking the test

Sketching Learner

- Learn through sketching doodling, drawing coloring

- Draw pictures/scenes that represent the word or definition (quiz time: quickly sketch your pictures on the page, visualize yourself drawing the pictures next to the word)
- Color code words/definitions

Writing Learner

- Needs to physically write out information in print to help memorize and understand

- Study by actually writing out the keywords of definitions
- Utilize whiteboards to write out when quizzesing
- Break the word list into chunks, memorizing small groups of words at one time