

Spotlight on learning styles
EVO 2014
Developing Business English Teachers

VAK learner strategies

If you are a visual learner:

- write down what you need to learn
- organize for yourself
- draw pictures, use graphic organizers

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- rearrange material in a new order
- find a way to practice pronunciation
- learn to listen actively

If you are an auditory learner:

- practice materials out loud
- participate orally in class
- record material and read along while listening

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- write material down and learn it again
- learn to take notes
- practice visualizing

If you are a kinesthetic emotional learner:

- find personal connections to material you have to learn
- discover personal reasons for learning
- study in a place in which you feel comfortable

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- find a way to separate your emotions from the learning situation
- learn to use facts
- learn to work with all types of people

If you are a kinesthetic motoric learner:

- try information out for yourself
- take frequent breaks while studying
- walk about while learning something new

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- write down what you have learned while walking about
- learn to sit still for longer periods of time
- practice handwriting

VAK teacher strategies

Helping visual learners

- use colors to mark different points you are trying to teach
- make use of sketches, drawings, pictures
- use visual aids
- teach mind-mapping
- put material to be learned above eye level so that learners look up (and store it in their visual memories)

Helping auditory learners

- use dialogues as a teaching technique
- use metaphors and tell stories
- summarize aloud
- speak rhythmically
- encourage class discussions

Helping kinesthetic emotional learners

- create a positive atmosphere in the classroom
- use humor and fun
- use groupwork and cooperative learning activities
- find ways to connect material to learners' personal experiences
- acknowledge learners' feelings and emotional states

Helping kinesthetic motoric learners

- build movement into lessons
- use roleplays
- use manipulatives and realia
- make use of activities involving physical contact
- re-teach theoretical subjects by using movement or objects

Global-analytic learner strategies

If you are a global learner:

- ask for an overview of the material
- find ways to use your creativity and imagination
- create your own system of learning through trial and error
- use the whole picture to determine the details
- ask for help if you need it

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- practice prioritizing tasks and try not to do everything at once
- learn how to make guidelines and rules work for you
- find ways to motivate yourself
- learn basic organizational technique to keep from being overwhelmed

If you are an analytic learner:

- link the details together to form a big picture
- work alone if you need to
- set goals for yourself and record your progress
- work on one thing at a time
- make sure you know what is expected of you

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- learn when the goal is more important than the individual details
- find out when you can accept alternative ideas
- learn to 'go with the flow' if necessary
- understand when flexibility and spontaneity are more important than being perfect

Global-analytic teacher strategies

Helping global learners

- state the end result
- let learners work in groups
- let learners give input on topics and help plan lessons
- use a variety of materials and methods
- use collaborative activities

Helping analytic learners

- give rules and procedures
- concentrate on details
- explain exactly how you expect learners to proceed
- stay with one topic as long as possible
- keep your classroom and lessons structured

Mind Organization learner strategies

If you are a Power Planner:

- make a checklist and tick off items when you do them
- related what you need to learn to practical situations
- make sure you have exact instructions and know what you need to do and how to do it

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- learn to accept someone else's plan
- learn to let someone else lead a group
- learn to accept change

If you are an Expert Investigator:

- make sure you have all the information you need or know where to find it
- ensure you know exactly what is expected of you and what you need to do to complete your work properly
- find out if you can have more time to work on something if necessary

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- learn to be less of a perfectionist
- learn to accept other people's opinions
- spend more time in social activities and working with others

If you are a Flexible Friend:

- find out who can help you if you need it
- create your own, personal, relaxed learning atmosphere
- find personal connections to material you have to learn

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- find a fun way to organize your learning schedule
- concentrate less on personal relationships
- learn to decide with your head and not your heart

If you are a Radical Reformer:

- find personal and important reasons to learn something and finish homework assignments
- decide on the best time and place for you to learn
- decide if your strategies are working, if not, experiment with new ones

To stretch out of your comfort zone:

- learn to set priorities for yourself
- learn to concentrate on one project at a time
- find a way to fit in while maintaining your sense of individuality

Mind Organization teacher strategies

Helping the Power Planner

- give learners an exact schedule of what will be covered and when
- give written and verbal instructions for assignments
- make use of practical and 'hands-on' learning experiences
- give learners exact dates as to when work needs to be finished
- give exact feedback on oral production and written assignments

Helping the Expert Investigator

- allow learners enough time to finish an assignment
- create possibilities for them to research topics on their own
- build debates into lessons – encourage them to analyze and look at issues from different points of view
- don't make emotions when making decisions, especially with classroom management
- be consistent with rules, expectations, and methods of assessment

Helping the Flexible Friend

- create a comfortable, inviting classroom
- allow time for personal stories from learners
- encourage learners to ask for help if they need it
- show learners that you like them as people
- show sensitivity with topics which are important to them

Helping the Radical Reformer

- don't push learners into a corner where they need to defend themselves
- give them a chance to negotiate with you while maintaining your authority
- make sure lessons are interesting and varied – try to avoid routines in the classroom
- create situations in which creative problem-solving is required
- create assignments which provide some challenge