

# What is Learning

## Definitions of Learning

There is **no single accepted definition of learning**, since it depends on one's point of view. Most commonly accepted **learning paradigms** suggest learning is:

- a visible change in one's behavior which can be measured<sup>1)</sup>
- the active process of acquisition (including insight, information processing, memory, perception) of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions<sup>2)</sup>
- a natural desire of human beings, a mean of self-actualization and developing personal potentials<sup>3)</sup>
- an active, socially enhanced process of knowledge construction based on one's own subjective interpretation of the objective reality<sup>4)</sup>
- the process of connecting to information sources containing actionable knowledge and maintaining those connections<sup>5)</sup>

Some **other definitions** of learning we found useful are listed here:

- “acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information.”<sup>6)</sup>
- “the activity or process of gaining knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing something: the activity of someone who learns.”<sup>7)</sup>
- “all relatively permanent changes in potential for behavior that result from experience but are not due to fatigue, maturation, drugs, injury, or disease.”<sup>8)</sup>
- “a relatively permanent change in mental associations due to experience. This definition focuses on a change in mental associations, an internal change that we cannot observe.”<sup>9)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup>

See: [Behaviorism](#).

<sup>2)</sup>

See: [Cognitivism](#).

<sup>3)</sup>

See: [Humanism](#).

<sup>4)</sup>

See: [Constructivism](#).

<sup>5)</sup>

See: [Connectivism](#).

<sup>6)</sup>

[Wikipedia: Learning](#). Retrieved September 6th, 2011. Updated August 11th, 2011.

<sup>7)</sup>

[Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary: Learning](#). Retrieved September 6th, 2011.

<sup>8)</sup>

[Lefrancois, G. R. Theories of Human Learning: What the Old Man Said](#). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning. 2000.

<sup>9)</sup>

[Ormrod, J.E. Human learning \(3rd ed.\)](#). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. 1999.

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