

# What is Learning

## Definitions of Learning

There is no single accepted definition of learning, since it depends on one's point of view<sup>1)</sup>. Some of the definitions we found useful are listed here.

Learning is:

- “acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information.”<sup>2)</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>3)</sup>
- “a relatively permanent change in behavior due to experience. This refers to a change in behavior, an external change that we can observe.”<sup>4)</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>5)</sup>

1)

See: [Learning paradigms](#)

2)

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

3)

Lefrancois, G. R. *Theories of Human Learning: What the Old Man Said*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning. 2000.

4)

Behaviorist definition. Ormrod, J.E. *Human learning (3rd ed.)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. 1999.

5)

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

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