

# 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:

- a visible change in one's behavior which can be measured<sup>2)</sup>
- active process of acquisition (including insight, information processing, memory, perception) of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions<sup>3)</sup>
- “acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information.”<sup>4)</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>5)</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>6)</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>7)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup>

See: [Learning paradigms](#)

<sup>2)</sup>

See: [Behaviorism](#).

<sup>3)</sup>

See: [Cognitivism](#)

<sup>4)</sup>

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

<sup>5)</sup>

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

<sup>6)</sup>

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

<sup>7)</sup>

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

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