

What is Learning

Definitions of Learning

There is no single accepted definition of learning, since it depends on one's point of view¹⁾. Some of the definitions we found useful are listed here.

Learning is:

- a visible change in one's behavior which can be measured²⁾
- the active process of acquisition (including insight, information processing, memory, perception) of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions³⁾
- “acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information.”⁴⁾
- “all relatively permanent changes in potential for behavior that result from experience but are not due to fatigue, maturation, drugs, injury, or disease.”⁵⁾
- “a relatively permanent change in behavior due to experience. This refers to a change in behavior, an external change that we can observe.”⁶⁾
- “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.”⁷⁾

¹⁾

See: [Learning paradigms](#)

²⁾

See: [Behaviorism](#).

³⁾

See: [Cognitivism](#)

⁴⁾

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

⁵⁾

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

⁶⁾

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

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

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