

# 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>
- the active process of acquisition (including insight, information processing, memory, perception) of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions<sup>3)</sup>
- a natural desire of human beings, a mean of self-actualization and developing personal potentials<sup>4)</sup>
- “acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information.”<sup>5)</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>6)</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>7)</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>8)</sup>

1)

See: [Learning paradigms](#)

2)

See: [Behaviorism](#).

3)

See: [Cognitivism](#)

4)

See: [Humanism](#)

5)

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

6)

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

7)

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

8)

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

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