



# Barsch Learning Style Inventory

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To gain a better understanding of yourself as a learner, it is useful to identify the way you prefer to learn. Learning is easier when study skills are used that are consistent with your individual style for learning. The following diagnostic test is a short, quick device for assessing your learning style.

This is **not a timed test**. You may ask for assistance when and where you feel you need it. Answer each question as honestly as you can. There are 32 questions.

When you have finished, your scores will be automatically calculated on page 4. You will see very quickly where your strength is for learning. At that point you will know whether you are a **visual, auditory, tactile, or kinesthetic** learner. You will discover if you as an individual learn best through *seeing* things, *hearing* them, through the sense of *touch*, or through *body movement*.

Check mark the appropriate box after each statement:

Question	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
1. I remember more about a subject by listening than reading.			
2. I find it easier to follow directions when written vs. given orally.			
3. I perform new physical skills or movements quickly and with few errors.			
4. I bear down extremely hard on a pen/pencil when writing.			
5. I require explanations of diagrams, graphics, charts, or visual directions.			
6. I enjoy working with tools.			
7. I am skillful with and enjoy making graphs, charts, and diagrams.			
8. I can tell if sounds match when presented with a pair of them.			
9. I can watch someone do a dance step and copy it easily.			
10. I can understand directions on maps and follow them easily.			
11. I do better in academic subjects that rely mainly on listening to lectures and tapes.			
12. I commonly play with keys, change, or other objects in my pocket.			
13. I enjoy perfecting a movement in a sport or in dancing.			
14. I can better understand by reading about news in the paper rather than listening to it on the radio.			
15. I chew gum, smoke, or snack while studying.			
16. The best way for me to remember something is to picture it in my head.			
17. I enjoy activities where I am aware of my body's movement.			
18. I would rather listen to a lecture or speech than read the same material in a textbook.			
19. I consider myself athletic.			
20. I am likely to have something in my hands when studying.			

Adapted from: Congos, Dennis H. (2011) Starting Out in Community College. Chicago, IL: McGraw-Hill



Question	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
21. I prefer listening to the news on radio rather than reading about it.			
22. I like to get information on interesting subjects by reading.			
23. I am highly aware of sensations and feelings in my hips and shoulders after learning new skills or movements.			
24. I follow oral directions better than written ones.			
25. It is easy for me to memorize something when I can use my body in some way.			
26. I prefer to write things I have to remember down.			
27. I remember better when writing things down over and over.			
28. I learn to spell better by repeating letters aloud than by writing the words			
29. I can frequently visualize body movements to perform tasks such as swinging a golf club or dancing.			
30. I learn spelling best by tracing over letters.			
31. I feel comfortable touching, hugging, shaking hands, etc.			
32. I am good at working out and solving jigsaw puzzles.			

## Barsch Learning Style Scoring Procedures and Exercise

### Scoring Procedures

Find the point value of each question and place it on the line next to the corresponding number below. Next, total each of the 4 columns to determine your learning style preference score.

**Often** = 5 points      **Sometimes** = 3 points      **Rarely** = 1 point

### Preference Scores

Visual		Auditory		Tactile		Kinesthetic	
Question #	Points	Question #	Points	Question #	Points	Question #	Points
2	_____	1	_____	4	_____	3	_____
7	_____	5	_____	6	_____	9	_____
10	_____	8	_____	12	_____	13	_____
14	_____	11	_____	15	_____	17	_____
16	_____	18	_____	20	_____	19	_____
22	_____	21	_____	27	_____	23	_____
26	_____	24	_____	30	_____	25	_____
32	_____	28	_____	31	_____	29	_____
Total = _____		Total = _____		Total = _____		Total = _____	



## Visual Learners

**In learning skills**, if your strength is **Visual Learning** (you have a high visual score), then by all means

be sure you **emphasize the use of *sight* on all study materials**. For example, use existing and/or make charts, maps, pictures, overheads, and rewrite notes. Practice visualizing concepts and ideas or to picture spelling words in your head, for example, will help you learn. Regularly test yourself by looking at main ideas or questions and write the details or answers. Doing this frequently is an efficient way to review visually.

**In thinking**, **Visual Learners tend to think in images or pictures**. It is as if they have a video camera in their minds. They take in what they hear or read and translate it into images in their brain. When **Visual Learners** want to recall what he or she has learned, they simply look at the image that they have stored on their mental "picture screen". This process is much like going to the movies and then recalling what one has seen, in order to tell a friend. The memory process is taking place by reviewing the pictures from the movie and then talking about the story line to someone else. **Visual Learners** speak in terms of "I see, I get the picture."

**In a classroom**, **Visual Learners** find it easier when testing is conducted in a written "visual" format because this requires that visual images be made to recall information. Good **Visual Learners** read the black and white text and then convert the information into pictures, maps, sketches, diagrams, lists, etc. This makes storing of information and later recall easier. The **Visual Learner** will easily conform to most classroom standards, such as sitting quietly, writing neatly, and organizing materials well.

**When choosing careers**, **Visual Learners** should select those fields which fit their learning style: architect, designer, decorator, engineer, surgeon, and those careers which require a "vision" of the future, such as CEOs and other executive positions.

Visual learners make up around 65% of the population.

## Auditory Learners

**In learning skills**, **Auditory Learners** will learn more effectively if they **emphasize the use of their sense of *hearing* to learn ideas and concepts**. For example, **Auditory Learners** will benefit more if they sit in the front of the class so they can hear lectures clearly. They more readily join discussion groups so they can hear ideas and concepts verbalized by themselves and others. They practice lectures by themselves or test themselves by reciting details aloud after looking only at a main idea.

**In thinking**, **Auditory Learners** do not emphasize make pictures in their minds, as do visual learners, but rather filter incoming information through their listening and repeating aloud. **Auditory Learners** tell wonderful stories and solve problems by "talking" about them.

**In the classroom**, the **Auditory Learner** learns by listening and can more easily repeat statements back to the teacher. The **Auditory Learner** likes class discussions but can become easily distracted by noise. Of the three styles, the **Auditory Learner** is the most talkative but has more difficulty writing.



**In careers**, the excellent listening skills of this type of learner are what make great musicians, disc jockeys, psychologists, etc. Speech patterns will represent exactly how the **Auditory Learner** thinks, i.e., "I hear ya, that clicks, that sounds right, that rings a bell" etc.

Auditory learners make up about 30% of the population.

## Tactile Learners

**In learning skills**, **Tactile Learners** benefit if they **emphasize the use of their sense of touch** in learning. For example, they should rewrite notes frequently or make questions from main ideas and regularly try to write the answers from memory. Putting this information on notecards is an easy way to organize main ideas and details while using tactile skills. It is also easy to quiz themselves and to touch what they need to learn and remember. They prefer to study with a pen or pencil in hand and write things down. They benefit from drawing pictures and diagrams in their notes. **Tactile Learners** prefer to learn through the body or feelings. If they can touch and feel whatever they are learning about, **Tactile Learners** will process and remember the information quite well.

**In thinking**, **Tactile Learners** do not have the internal pictures of neatness and organization that visual learners make so easily in their minds. This is one of the reasons that **Tactile Learners** have a more difficult time demonstrating what they know in a traditional classroom. **Tactile Learners** do not usually make pictures in their minds. If they do not make pictures, it follows that there are no pictures to either keep neat, or to "mess up." Therefore, it is normal for them not to be organized. A sense of time is also quite difficult for the student who prefers to learn tactilely. Often, there is little projection of consequences of actions, simply because this learner does not "see" out into the future. They are better at understanding the present moment.

**In the classroom**, these students are usually quite restless, have more difficulty paying attention, and can't seem to get "focused" (a visual term). These learners like to speak about learning in terms of feelings and say things like "I feel" or "I'd like to get a better handle on this information." **Tactile Learners** excel in a classroom where ideas are "acted out" and where they can choose assignments that allow them to build things and get their hands involved in learning.

**In careers**, **Tactile Learners** prefer athletics, building, construction, dancing, etc.; essentially any work that involves using the senses.

Tactile learners make up around 2.5% of the population.

## Kinesthetic Learners

**Kinesthetic Learners** benefit if they **use their body in learning**. For example, some **Kinesthetic Learners** walk while studying notes and find that it improves learning. Using some sort of movement when memorizing is another way to increase learning for **Kinesthetic Learners**.

**In thinking**, **Kinesthetic Learners** are better able to think and process information while doing something physical.



In careers, **Kinesthetic Learners** also prefer careers in athletics, building, construction, dancing, etc., any work that involves the body and movement.

Kinesthetic learners make up around 2.5% of the population.

## For All Learners in College

Learners taking written tests are expected to retrieve the information in the VISUAL learning style. The very fact that the information is written down produces a visual image. Nearly all subjects demand that learners make internal pictures of the information, store them, and then recall the information in pictures to write onto a piece of paper.

*All students* must learn how to strengthen their visual learning skills if they are to succeed in college because nearly all college testing is conducted in the visual or written mode. If you do not naturally learn in the visual style, you can get the most help by discovering and adopting some of the visual learners' techniques.

## Analysis

Which score is highest? What are 3 study techniques you can use that will utilize your primary learning style as you study?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which score is second highest? What are 3 study techniques you can use that will utilize your secondary learning style as you study?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which score is third highest? What are 3 study techniques you can use that will utilize your secondary learning style as you study?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which score is lowest? What are 3 study techniques you can use that will utilize your tertiary learning style as you study?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Most students have one dominant learning style. Those who have ties in scores can use either learning style equally as well. Those who adapt study skills to incorporate **all 4 learning styles** learn faster and remember longer.

To develop the best learning skills for you, information from tests like these should be used in conjunction with a learning skills counselor's guidance and assistance.

Use all four styles of learning to learn faster and remember longer!