

Resource 1.1 - Learning Definitions

1. Learners construct meaning on their own terms no matter what teachers do, *Richardson*
2. By 'learn' is meant the ability to do something which one could not previously do. It follows that 'to learn' there will be 'a change', *Sotto*
3. Learning is any more or less permanent change in behaviour, which is the result of experience, *Jarvis*
4. Real learning doesn't happen when we are fed information. Learning is what happens when we realise we don't know something which we consider worth knowing, form a hunch about it and test that hunch actively, *Sotto*
5. Unless the task is a very simple one, it isn't possible to master it by learning one fact after another in rote fashion. One has to learn how the whole thing hangs together - one has to see the pattern, *Sotto*
6. Our most powerful learning takes place when we have had a suitable experience, and when we are able to reflect consciously on that experience. Such an interplay allows us to view the experience from a variety of angles, rehearse it for a new action, store it in writing, or communicate it to others, *Sotto*
7. Because learning transforms who we are and what we can do, it is an experience of identity, *Wenger*
8. Learning has a social dimension - we learn alongside other people, in all our social relationships, *Jarvis*
9. To be alive is to be learning. Learning is not just something we do sometimes, in special places or at certain periods of our lives. It is part of our nature, *Claxton*
10. While processes of learning are universal. What we learn and the ways in which we learn are strongly influenced by social characteristics such as gender and ethnicity, *Jarvis*
11. Learning is an activity for the young, *Claxton*
12. Learning is a rational cognitive process, and getting emotional is a sign that the learning process is not taking place 'properly', *Claxton*
13. Creativity is possible in all areas of human activity, including the arts, sciences at work and at play and in all other areas of daily life. All people have creative abilities and we all have them differently. When individuals find their creative strengths, it can have enormous impact on self-esteem and on overall achievement, *NACCCE*
14. There are various levels of knowing. The strongest form of knowing comes about when we have had a suitable experience of something. This kind of knowing is coded inside us in a felt, compacted, living, tacit form, and is part of our total mental structure. With some effort, we can sometimes make this kind of knowledge conscious and think about it verbally, *Sotto*
15. Learning is designed to produce meaning, the experience of the world as meaningful, *Wenger*
16. Learning is what you do when you don't know what to do, *Claxton*
17. Adult learning is essentially self-planned or self-directed. The role of adult educators is to facilitate self-directed, reflective and critical learning on the part of individual learners. Liberal adult education is based on concepts of self-determination, self-actualisation and self-transformation, *Jarvis*
18. Today learning is seen as the expansion and consolidation of what is already known, *Falk and Dierking*

References

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