

# How People Learn

(Written By Jerry Reed)

## INTRODUCTION -

1. Teaching is the transfer of knowledge from the instructor to the student
2. It has been said that teaching is one of the most important jobs we do as callers
3. It has also been said that teaching can be one of the most difficult AND rewarding jobs
4. Many callers simply teach they way they were taught, without thinking about the different and sometimes challenging aspects of teaching other to square dance, or to improve the dancer's abilities
5. Research has revealed that different people learn is several different ways called "Learning Style",

This paper will provide information on the following:

- A. Define the different Learning Styles
- B. Explain how people learn
- C. Provide brief examples of each Learning Style
- D. Emphasize that an instructor needs to employ more than one Learning Style
- E. Help you become a more effective instructor

## LEARNING STYLES -

There are four different Learning Styles:

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| A. Observing | C. Reading |
| B. Listening | D. Doing   |

## HOW PEOPLE LEARN -

1. Learning to do something is different from learning to know something
  - A. Generally, learning to do something requires the student to actually perform the action of the thing being learned. While learning to know something does not, normally require physical action by the student
  - B. Learning to dance requires the students to dance and PRACTICE
2. Some people learn better from one method while others learn better from a completely different method.
3. Because of the difference in the way people learn, callers should present information using these various methods.

## EXPLANATION OF LEARNING STYLES -

1. Observing
  - A. Students watch demonstrations
  - B. Demonstrations using the smallest practical number of dancers are best
2. Listening
  - A. Instructor explains calls
  - B. Also called "Talk Thru"

3. Reading
  - A. Definitions,
  - B. Illustrated Handbooks, or
  - C. Other books/publications
4. Doing
  - A. Students dance to practice what they have been taught
  - B. Also called "Walk Thur"

#### EMPLOY MORE THAN ONE LEARNING STYLE -

1. Different people learn in different ways
2. When teaching a call instructors should use as many different Learning Styles as is practical
3. Instructors should also use different terminology to teach the same call  
Teaching Tips, posted on the CALLERLAB web site, provide information about different ways to teach the calls
4. The information presented here is intended to help make your teaching more effective and help you reach and teach the wide variety of students you are likely to find in your classes

#### CONCLUSION -

1. LEARNING STYLES -  
The four Learning Styles are: 1) Observing, 2) Listening, 3) Reading, and 4) Doing
2. Our goal
  - A. Train dancers to be able to comfortably enter the local square dance activity
  - B. Dancers should be able to respond properly to calls they hear, from the formations and arrangements that they are most likely to encounter
3. Teaching is VERY IMPORTANT and must be done well - the dancers deserve no less

PRACTICE DOES NOT MAKES PERFECT

**PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

IF THE DANCER CAN'T DANCE, THE CALLER HASN'T CALLED.