

# Characteristics Comparison between Auditory-Sequential and Visual Spatial Learners

According to Dr. Linda Silverman, "Visual-spatial learners are individuals who think in pictures rather than in words. Learning characteristics of visual spatial learners may cause them problems in school, and often gifted visual spatial learners are not recognized as being gifted in a typical school environment.

The Auditory-Sequential Learner	The Visual-Spatial Learner
Is a step-by-step learner	Is a whole-part learner
Has auditory strengths	Has visual strengths
Learns by trial and error	Learns concepts all at once
Is an analytical thinker	Is a good synthesizer
Attends well to details	Sees the big picture; may miss details
Does well at arithmetic	Is better at math reasoning than computation
Follows oral directions well	Reads maps well
Learns phonics easily	Learns sight words better than phonics
Can sound out spelling words	Must visualize words in order to spell them
Excels at rote memorization	Learns best by seeing relationships
Has excellent short-term memory	Has excellent long-term memory
Has neat handwriting	Prefers keyboarding to writing
Is well organized	Creates unique methods of organization
Progresses sequentially from easy to difficult material	Learns difficult concepts easily; struggles with easy skills
Learns from models	Develops own methods of problem solving
May need some repetition to reinforce learning	Learns concepts permanently: is turned off by drill and repetition
Performs well in timed tests	Performs better in untimed situations
Can show work easily	Arrives at correct solutions intuitively
Masters other languages in classes	Masters other languages through immersion
Learns in spite of emotional reactions	Is very sensitive to teachers' attitudes
Is comfortable with one right answer	Generates unusual solutions to problems
Develops in a fairly even manner	Develops quite asynchronously
Usually maintains high grades	May have very uneven grades
Enjoys algebra and chemistry	Enjoys geometry and physics
Is academically talented	Is creatively, mechanically, technologically, or emotionally gifted
Is an early bloomer	Is a late bloomer
<i>Chart provided courtesy of the Gifted Development Center</i>	

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<b><i>Visual Spatial Learners:</i></b>	<b><i>Visual Spatial Learners:</i></b>
<b><i>Strengths</i></b>	<b><i>Weaknesses</i></b>
Thrives on complexity	Struggles with easy material
Loves difficult puzzles	Hates drill and repetition
Fascinated by computers	Has illegible handwriting
Great at geometry, physics	Poor at phonics, spelling
Keen visual memory	Poor auditory memory
Creative, imaginative	Inattentive in class
A systems thinker	Disorganized; forgets details
High abstract reasoning	Difficulty memorizing facts
Excels in math analysis	Poor at calculation
High reading comprehension	Low word recognition
Excellent sense of humor	Performs poorly on TIMED tests
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<http://www.riage.org/characteristics.html>