



Many teachers today say that this generation just doesn't pay attention. This may seem to be the case, but in reality it's that learning and teaching styles are not always compatible. The days of reading for pleasure have gone by the wayside--this generation has been raised on television and video games, and as such, they learn differently than previous generations. Studies show that 80-85% of all students are visual learners, yet many teachers still adhere to a lecture-only format that doesn't work for these students.

Learning styles are the different ways students take in and process information, as well as how they respond to different kinds of teaching techniques:

**The sensory learner:**

- concrete
- practical
- real-world
- "give me the facts/data"
- careful
- methodical
- detail-oriented

**The intuitive learner:**

- theories
- memories
- ideas
- hunches
- speculation
- creative/innovative
- bored by details

**Students learning styles are also categorized as:**

- concrete vs. abstract
- visual vs. verbal
- active vs. reflective
- global (holistic) vs. sequential (step-by-step)

A good class touches on all these: it contains theory, underlying meanings and structure (for intuitors), yet is still anchored to reality, the real world, and the concrete (for sensors). An overwhelming majority of people are visual and sensory learners, yet many instructors teach in such a way that they are putting the information out, but the students are not taking it in. Routine, fact-driven, heavy-on-memorization, lecture-only classes are hard for all learners. Disparate learning styles between teachers and students creates problems in the classroom and can lead to failure on the part of the student who in turn thinks they have a problem or aren't smart enough to understand the material. At Driving 101, our instructors demonstrate the skills associated with both sides of the learning spectrum and we train our students with a balanced teaching style that touches on all learning styles.

At Driving 101, we organize and plan instruction so as to meet the needs of all students, not just a select few. With the knowledge that visual learners make up 80-85% of the population, we recognize that lecture-only classes don't meet the needs of these students. Our instructors have concrete and real-world teaching styles, and bring in theories and ideas once the need has been established. In doing so, we incorporate as much visual content and active learning into our lectures as possible; every lecture has a PowerPoint presentation and we show relevant videos in nearly every class. This makes for a fun learning environment that leaves no student behind.

With the understanding that the key to a successful classroom is balance, we strive to find a happy medium in our instruction. The result of this effort is a classroom in which every student can thrive.