



## Chapter 3: The Science of Learning: Determining How Multimedia Learning Works

### I. A cognitive theory of multimedia learning assumes...

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"A cognitive theory of multimedia learning assumes that the human information-processing system includes dual channels for visual/pictorial and auditory/verbal processing, each channel has limited capacity for processing, and active learning entails carrying out appropriate cognitive processing during learning."

#### A. 1. Dual-Channel Assumption...

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"The dual-channel assumption is that humans possess separate information-processing channels for visually represented material and auditorily represented material."

#### B. 2. Limited-Capacity Assumption...

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"The second assumption is that humans are limited in the amount of information that can be processed in each channel at one time."

C. **3. Active-Processing Assumption...**

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"The third assumption is that humans actively engage in cognitive processing in order to construct a coherent mental representation of their experiences. These active cognitive processes include paying attention, organizing incoming information, and integrating incoming information with other knowledge."

II. **Five steps in multimedia learning are...**

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1. "...selecting relevant words from the presented text or narration,"
2. "...selecting relevant images from the presented illustrations,"
3. "...organizing the selected words in a coherent verbal representation,"
4. "...organizing the selected images into a coherent visual representation, and"
5. "...integrating the visual and verbal representations and prior knowledge."

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table 3.3

"Three Processes for Active Learning"

reorganization of the above

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"Each of these five steps in multimedia learning is likely to occur many times throughout a multimedia presentation."

**III. Effective instructional design depends on...**

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"Effective instructional design depends on techniques for reducing extraneous processing, managing essential processing, and fostering generative processing."

**IV. p. 60**

"Decisions about how to design a multimedia message always reflect an underlying conception of how people learn."

**V. p. 69**

"Multimedia design can be conceptualized as an attempt to assist learners in their model-building efforts."

**A. two implication...**

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"...two important implications for multimedia design: (a) the presented material should have a coherent structure, and (b) the message should provide guidance for the learner on how to build the structure."

**Definitions**

**I. Learning...**

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"Learning is a change in knowledge attributable to experience."

**II. Active learning...**

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"Active learning occurs when a learner applies cognitive processes

to incoming material - processes that are intended to help the learner make sense of the material. The outcome of active cognitive processing is the construction of a coherent mental representation, so active learning can be viewed as a process of model building. A mental model (or knowledge structure) represents the key parts of the presented material and their relations."

**Five kinds of knowledge...**

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Anderson et al, 2001; Mayer & Wittrock, 2006)

**I. 1. Facts...**

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facts - "knowledge about characteristics of things or events, such as 'Sacramento is the capital of California,'"

**II. 2. Concepts...**

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concepts - "knowledge of categories, principles, or models such as knowing what a dog is or how a pulley system works,"

**III. 3. Procedures...**

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procedures - "knowledge of specific step-by-step processes, such as how to enter data into a spreadsheet,"

**IV. 4. Strategies...**

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strategies - "knowledge of general methods for orchestrating one's

knowledge to achieve a goal, such as knowing how to break a problem into subparts, and"

**V. 5. Beliefs...**

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beliefs - "cognitions about oneself or about how one's learning works, such as the belief that 'I am not good at math.'"

**Five kinds of knowledge Structures (types of understanding)...**

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table 3.2

**I. 1. Process...**

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1. "Process structures can be represented as cause-and-effect chains and consist of explanations of how some system works." (e.g., how a oven works)

**II. 2. Comparison...**

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2. "Comparison structures can be represented as matrices and consist of comparisons among two or more elements along several dimensions." (e.g., comparative work or a teacher vs. a student)

**III. 3. Generalization...**

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3. "Generalization structures can be represented as a branching tree and consists of a main ideas with subordinate supporting details."  
e.g., the outline of a chapter

**IV. 4. Enumeration...**

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4. "Enumeration structures can be represented as list and consist of a collection of items." e.g., a grocery list

V. **5. Classification...**

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5. "Classification structure can be represented as hierarchies and consists of sets and subsets." e.g., types of birds and their major characteristics