

Explanation of Logic, Right Brain (Gestalt), Kinesthetic & ESL Learners

Nearly every student struggling to read is a Gestalt or Right Brain dominate learner, an ESL student, or has an eye tracking problem. A **Right Brain** person processes and learns language differently than a **Left Brain** learner. ESL students suffer from the same brain and eye dominance profile problems as other English students. Their learning tasks are also hindered by the complexity of trying to decode words using phonics and syllables that also hinder English speaking students. The simple structure of **Read Quick** and the opportunity to apply it daily with accuracy and reliability develops mastery for independent reading.

- **Right Brain or Gestalt learners** are descriptions of the same learning style. They see the 'whole' and then work with the parts of the whole.
- **The Left Brain learners** are pathfinders; they follow the trail step-by-step until they reach their goal. As language learners they are usually good at reading and spelling.

Gestalt (Right Brain) learners are creative, mechanically inclined and do better in art and math. They may drift from their lessons and may or may not return to the assignment because their curiosity pulls their attention in another direction.

Left Brain learners plan their learning task and stay with their goal. They are school - type learners and usually considered the best students because of their strengths in language.

Until now, it is probably safe to say that every student has been taught in school as a Left Brain learner, especially in reading, a subject that is presented one step at a time.

- The 40% of **Right Brain** learners have drifted in and out of their language lessons, creating remedial readers who suffer in every school subject requiring reading. They are also tagged as the 'trouble makers' because they drift from the reading lessons to pursue other interests and usually require some physical movement to stay on task, which distracts teacher and peers.
- **Left Brain** learners cruise through subject reading assignments and are generally recognized as the star pupils. They are literally perfect for the current methods of teaching reading. Their main weakness for using language to excel in activities beyond printed lessons, compared to a **Right Brain** learner, is their inability to visualize in picture format what they have read.
- Examine the reading success rate of students in all grade levels, coast to coast: **Reading success = 30 to 40%** annually; **dysfunctional readers = 60 to 70% annual.** Which group is probably the **Right Brain** learners?
- **Additional reading difficulties are found in students with visual tracking and eye teaming dysfunction.** This accounts for numerous reading problems in the **Right Brain, Left Brain** and ESL learners, compounding the task of teaching reading to the general population. **Certified Learning Systems**, developers of **Read Quick**, has produced a manual for testing and correcting visual tracking problems. Many visually

impacted learners have a visual tracking problem and learn to read and function as an adult. However, their reading skills and vocational opportunities are hampered by this naturally occurring problem.

For **Right Brain**, kinesthetic and ESL learners to process lessons for decoding, they must have material present in three sets, all followed by practicing one lesson before moving to other lessons.

Material must be:

- ✓ **Seen and heard**
- ✓ **Seen and repeated**
- ✓ **Seen and used by the student**

All students learn and understand new material when taught in this 3-step process, not just the sounds and spellings needed for decoding.

The following are basic characteristics of **Right Brain (Gestalt)**, kinesthetic learners and logic learners.

- But first, it is important to know that **after all of the decoding skills are mastered; after reading stories are processed; and after academic subjects are tackled**, there is one overriding skill (the most important ability needed for complete academic success); this is **the ability to visualize what is read and what is heard** (like seeing a picture or movie of the topic). This visualization skill comes naturally to about 50% of the population; the other 50% must practice the skill, if at all possible. **Right Brain** learners usually have the natural ability to visualize ideas and concepts. Logic learners have language skills and may need more instruction on visualization.
- Most ESL students, like **Right Brain** learners, have this visualization ability in greater numbers than the typical English student; and should be capitalized on by instructors as their students process words through accurate decoding using **Read Quick**.

Right Brain Gestalt Learners

If the **Right Brain (Gestalt)** is the dominant brain, it will process information much differently than the **Left Brain** learner. **Right Brain** learners process information from a whole concept to the individual parts of the topic. Therefore, they should be taught differently than a **Left Brain** dominant student.

Processing:

- From the whole to the pieces in a contextual manner.
- Through image, rhythm, movement, emotion, and intuition
- In language – The **Right Brain (Gestalt)** provides the images, emotions, and dialect of language that guides comprehension.
- **Right Brain** learners have been referred to as creative because of their spontaneous and curious nature.
- If left eared dominant, a **Right Brain (Gestalt)** learner will prefer to listen to the overview, story, dialect and emotion of the information.
- **Right Brain (Gestalt)** learners tend to have good memories for faces, underlying meanings and emotions, and whole concepts.

- If right eared dominant, auditory access is limited during stress.
- Taking in new information by hearing it is difficult.
- **Right Brain** learners tend to be kinesthetically expressive.
- They communicate well with bodily gestures and like to engage in some slight physical action as they learn.
- Gestures and body language may be very expressive.
- When left hand dominant, a **Right Brain (Gestalt)** learner is kinesthetically able; even under stress they can communicate kinesthetically (by movement).
- Learns by manipulating objects and doing hands-on learning.
- Under stress, they are less able to use words to express themselves.
- All **Right Brain (Gestalt)** learners welcome movement to anchor learning.
- Movement and verbal communication are essential to anchoring new information.
- When dominant foot is on same side as Right Brain, person will have difficulty moving forward under stress.
- Prefers drawing and manipulation.
- Is a "now" oriented person.
- People-oriented.
- May lose track of time--forget to return to a task in class or does something else instead of homework.
- Free with feelings.
- Looks for similarities.

When Under Stress

- Loses ability to reason well.
- Acts without thinking.
- Feels overwhelmed.
- Has trouble expressing self.
- Cannot remember details.
- May appear emotional or spaced out.

Left Brain - Logic Dominant Processing

The **Left Brain** learner is the logic learner and processes information from pieces-to-the-whole in a linear manner. They deal with the pieces of language such as the alphabet, words, syntax, and spelling, and have been referred to as the language learner.

- **Left Brain** learner deals with numbers in a linear way.
- Favors step-by-step technique when learning a new skill.
- **Left Brain** learners tend to be positively reinforced in our present language-oriented education system.
- Works well with letters, printing and spelling.
- Usually understands the logic of our numbering and math system.
- Oriented toward sports, music and art.
- Analyzes and applies logic.
- Looks for differences.
- Controls feelings.
- Language-oriented.
- Planned and structured in learning and behavior.
- Usually a sequential thinker.
- Future-oriented.

- Time conscience.
- Structure-oriented.

When Under Stress

- Tries harder with lots of effort.
- May not get results.
- May not have comprehension.
- Performs task without joy.
- Performs without understanding.
- May appear mechanical, tense and sensitive.

The Corpus Callosum

The nerve connection between the right and left hemispheres acts as a super highway, allowing quick access to both linear detail in the logic brain and the overall image in the **Right Brain (Gestalt)** learner. This nerve connection can be strengthened with visual exercises and some specific physical activities.