What is Learning

Definitions of Learning

There is **no single accepted definition of learning**, since it depends on one's point of view. Most commonly accepted **learning paradigms** suggest learning is:

- a visible change in one's behavior which can be measured[1]
- the active process of acquisition (including insight, information processing, memory, perception) of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions[2]
- a natural desire of human beings, a mean of self-actualization and developing personal potentials[3]
- an active, socially enhanced process of knowledge construction based on one's own subjective interpretation of the objective reality[4]
- the process of connecting to information sources containing actionable knowledge and maintaining those connections[5]

Some **other definitions** of learning we found useful are listed here:

- "acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information."[6]
- "all relatively permanent changes in potential for behavior that result from experience but are not due to fatigue, maturation, drugs, injury, or disease."[7]
- "a relatively permanent change in mental associations due to experience. This definition focuses on a change in mental associations, an internal change that we cannot observe." [8]

[1]
See: Behaviorism.
[2]
See: Cognitivism.
[3]
See: Humanism.
[4]
See: Constructivism.
[5]
See: Connectivism.
[6]
Wikipedia: Learning. Retrieved September 6th, 2011. Updated August 11th, 2011.
[7]
Lefrancois, G. R. Theories of Human Learning: What the Old Man Said. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning. 2000.
[8]
Ormrod, J.E. Human learning (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. 1999.