

# Experiential Learning

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This is what experiential learning looks like in a classroom

# Questions

What is an *experience*?

What do you think of when you hear *experiential learning*?

Based on the video, what does experiential learning look like in the classroom?

# History

- John Dewey (c. 1930) viewed learning as a lifelong constructive process that evolves from *learning by doing*
- Jean Piaget (c. 1960) found that to obtain knowledge there must be an experience
- Kurt Lewin (c. 1960) argued that “learning is best facilitated in an environment where there is a *tension between immediate, concrete experience and analytic detachment and reflection*” (pg. 24)

# Definition

Experiential learning = Experiences  $\rightarrow$  knowledge + skill + value

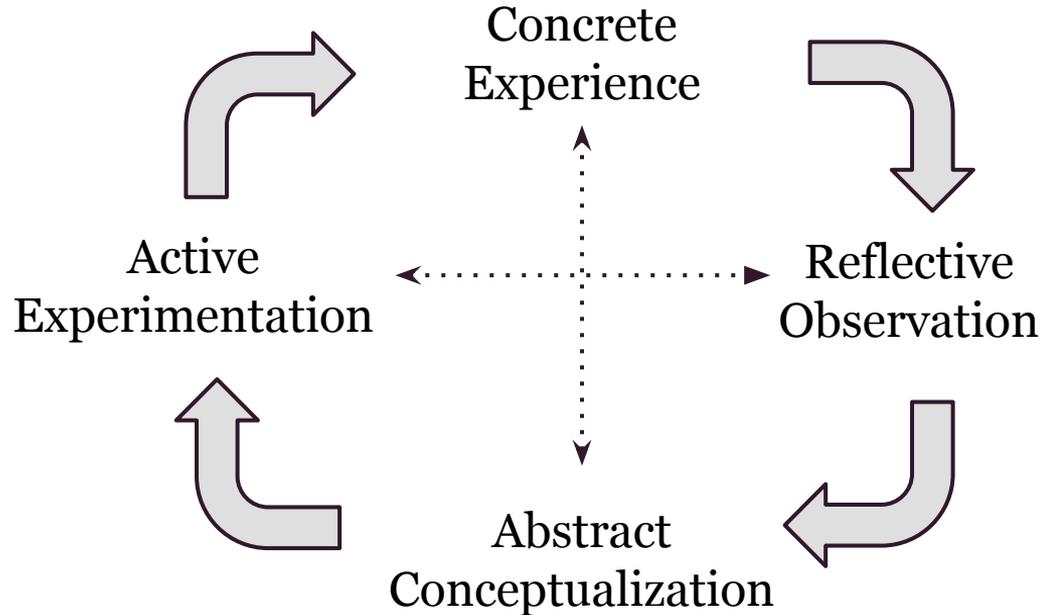
Learning is the process where knowledge is created through the transformation of an experience

# Experiential Practice

- Experiential learning occurs when experiences are followed by reflection
- Learners take initiative and make decisions
- Learners question, investigate, experiment, problem solve, construct meaning
- Learners are intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically engaged
- Nurtures relationships: learner - self, learner - others and learner - world
- Learners and educators experience success, failure, adventure, and risk-taking
- Learners and educators explore their own values
- Educators ensure physical and emotional safety, and facilitate the learning process
- Educators encourage spontaneous opportunities for learning
- Includes learning from natural consequences, mistakes and successes

Despite emphasis on out of classroom experience,  
experiential learning usually occurs in the classroom

# Kolb's Learning Cycle Theory



Where do these fall in Kolb's 4 learning stages?

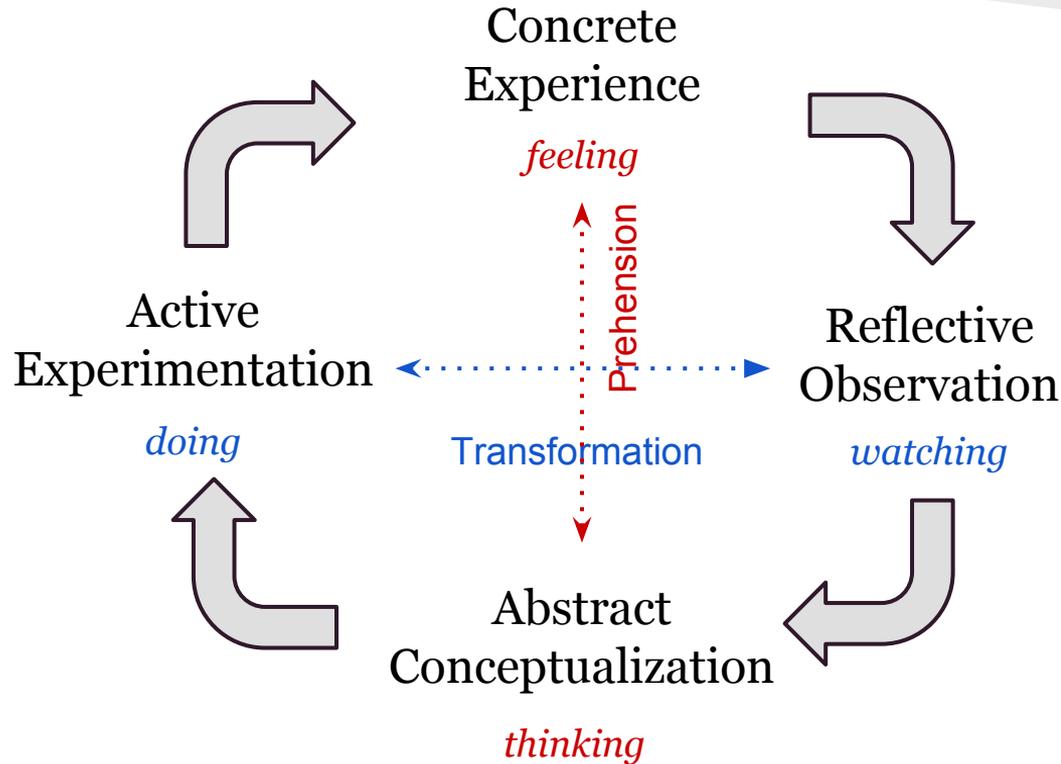
- grammar translation method
- audiolingual method
- communicative approach

# Effective Learning

Learning is most effective when a learner progresses through all 4 stages

This isn't always possible because learners have different learning styles

# Learning Styles



# Learning Styles

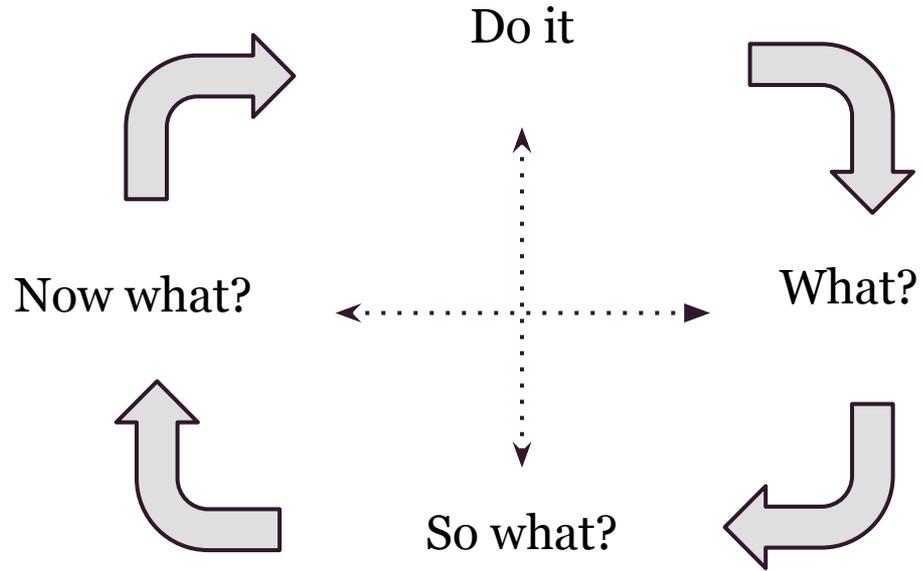
There are 4 learning styles which correspond to the 4 stages

- assimilators
- convergers
- accommodators
- divergers

What is your learning style?

# Take-aways

- Develop activities that take learners through each stage of the learning cycle
  - Provides learning opportunities
- Design activities that will suit each student's learning style.
- Identify learners' stronger and weaker learning styles. Help strengthen the less preferred through the experiential learning cycle
- Learning is experiential...
  - thinking, feeling, reflecting, acting



# Discussion

How would you “design an experience” that would guide students through Kolb’s 4 stages?

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