



Do you remember what you practise over what you read or hear?

If so, you might be someone who learns by doing.

Do It & Learn It

As teachers, we know that people learn differently. Some students love grammar. Others can spend a whole hour reading. Some enjoy anything that implies practice: exercises, role playing, games or real-life activities.

Tim

Tim liked sports and enjoyed building things with his hands. However, he found explanations boring. One day, his teacher suggested an activity that involved getting up from his desk and doing different tasks. Tim committed mistakes at the beginning but as the activity progressed he became better

at providing answers until, at the end, he got them all right. Tim still couldn't repeat explanations but had somehow internalised rules and applied them when faced with real-life situations. Tim learnt by doing.

Practise & Progress

Those who **learn by doing** should participate actively in class and ask for games or role-plays; speak with others as much as possible and interact with native speakers; take short breaks while studying; write flashcards to help vocabulary memorisation; change position every twenty minutes or so; take part in exercises that involve touching, building or moving. Trace words with fingers to help with spelling. Walk around, tap a pencil, rock a chair or hold on to something while studying. Take part in as many real-life activities as possible. Write emails, job descriptions or reports in English and practise interviews, meetings or presentations.

Commit: make.
Internalise: learn.
Flashcard: card.
Trace: sketch.
Rock: swing.

Andrew's advice: Ask your teacher for real-life situations and act them out in class.