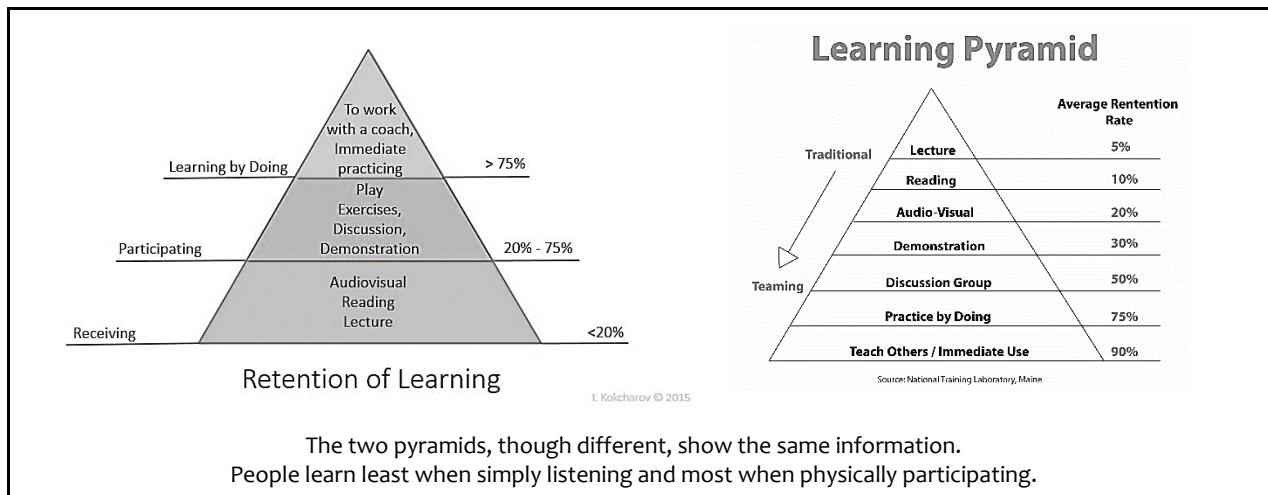


The Five Senses; or, The Gateways to Knowledge

John Bunyan, author of the Pilgrim's Progress, in his novel "The Holy War" compares the human soul to a citadel, or fortress on a hill, self-contained, having no means of communication with the outer world, except by five gates—Eye Gate, Ear Gate, Mouth Gate, Nose Gate, and Feel Gate. The five senses are very properly described as the gates of the city, for these are the doors by which good or evil must enter.

Though each of us are well aware of the five senses we possess, this lesson reminds us that the instructor needs to be aware of the learner's senses in the classroom. In addition, we must plan our lessons in such a way to allow the learner to experience as many senses as possible during the lesson for better memory retention.



1. The Gateway of the Ear: Hearing

"The true performance is within the ear's music-room, and each one of us has the whole orchestra to himself. When we thus realize the wondrous capabilities of the organ of hearing, I think we will not fail to find an intellectual and aesthetical as well as a great moral admonition in the Divine words, 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.'" -George Wilson M.D., 1860 publication of "The Five Senses; or, Gateways to Knowledge"



- Students will remember 5-10% of what they hear in the classroom.
- The lesson should be clear with the main point or aim repeated several times.
- Repetition WILL increase retention.

The Teacher:

- Evaluate yourself and your teaching methods regularly.
- If you are not satisfied with 10% of lesson retention, what are you doing to change that?
- Do not be monotonous! Use your voice in various ways during your lesson and especially when reading the Bible.
- Use creativity when asking children to use the Gateway of the Ear, not only simply listening to your voice.

Examples how to use the Gateway of the Ear in your classroom:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1) | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) | 6) |

2. The Gateway of the Eyes: Seeing

“And then, the soft pink curtains which we call eyelids, with their long silken fringes of eyelashes, and the unshed tears bathing and brightening all! How exquisite the whole! How precious in the sight of God must those little orbs be when he has bestowed upon them so much beauty!” -George Wilson, 1860 publication of “The Five Senses; or, Gateways to Knowledge”



- The learner will remember about 50% of what they both hear and see.
- Use visual aids. A good visual aid is a visual expression of what has been taught.
- Visual aids should enhance the story without diverting attention from it.

The Teacher:

- Evaluate yourself and your teaching methods regularly.
- Is 50% retention of your lesson enough?
- Remember, the instructor is the #1 visual aid! Your hand gestures, facial expressions, movements, and voice intonations are being watched.

Examples how to use the Gateway of the Eyes in your classroom:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1) | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) | 6) |

3. The Gateway of the Mouth: Speaking

“As it is, the tongue is the slave of the rest of the body, as well as of the soul. The heart says, make love for me, and the tongue makes love for the heart; the brain says, make discourse for me, and the tongue discourses for the brain; the soul says, pray for me, sing for me, curse for me, tell lies for me; and the tongue prays, sings, curses, and tells lies for the soul. If, however, the tongue should refuse to do all this, unless it were allowed a word occasionally for itself, what startling things it would tell us, even if it were permitted to speak only of what concerned it as the organ of taste!... There is within our hearts another tongue, which calls itself conscience, and is the slave of no organ or faculty of body or soul, but the lord of them all.” - George Wilson, 1860 publication of “The Five Senses; or, Gateways to Knowledge”



- A child can remember about 70% of what he or she sees, hears, and says.
- It is important to have children repeat out loud what you want them to remember.
- Ask questions at the end of your lesson which require more than “yes” or “no”.

The Teacher:

- Evaluate yourself and your teaching methods regularly.
- Are you successful in getting your students to remember 70% of your lesson?
- Do not be afraid to be spontaneous or plan which phrases you want your class to repeat.
- Having the class repeat after you is a good way to bring back attention if the class gets rowdy.

Examples how to use the Gateway of the Mouth in your classroom:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1) | 4) |
| 2) | 5) |
| 3) | 6) |

4. The Gateway of the Nose: Smelling

“Take the Hebrews as the nation most familiar to all of us, and observe how great was the importance attached by them to the sacred employment of fragrant substances. The altar of incense stood in a most conspicuous part of the Temple, and sweet incense was burned upon it every day. The High Priest was forbidden to enter the Holiest of All unless bearing in his hand the censers, from which clouds of perfumed smoke rose before the mercy seat... as emblematical of the prayers and thanksgivings of devout worshippers ascending to the throne of God, and with which He was well pleased.” -George Wilson, 1860 publication of “The Five Senses; or, Gateways to Knowledge”



The connection between smell and memory happens to be a directly physical one. The part of the brain responsible for smell is very close to the part which stores the short-term memory bank. This nearness links the emotional brain to the smell receptors more closely than to any other sense!

But, does the sense of smell really improve learning? Unfortunately, not really. Smells, however, could be used to recall settings or to enhance our memory recall. Using smells to study is simply the association of the scent, with a fact, concept, or idea.

The Teacher:

- Evaluate yourself, your teaching methods, and your classroom environment regularly.
- Though you don't necessarily need to use the sense of smell in your lesson, an unpleasant odor in the class will be a great distraction to learning!
- A pleasant aroma in the classroom creates a relaxed atmosphere.
- A variation of senses used in your lessons, does create an interest from the learner.

Examples how to use the Gateway of the Nose in your classroom:

1)

3)

2)

4)

5. The Gateway of the Hands: Doing

“When I think of all that man and woman's hand has wrought, from the day when Eve put forth her erring hand to pluck the fruit of the forbidden tree, to that dark hour when the pierced hands of the Savior of the world were nailed to the predicted tree of shame, and of all that human hands have done of good and evil since, I lift up my hand, and gaze upon it with wonder and awe. What an instrument for good it is! What an instrument for evil! And all the day long it never is idle. ...For all there is the command, ‘Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.’” -George Wilson, 1860 publication of “The Five Senses; or, Gateways to Knowledge”

- A child will remember 90% of what he or she hears, sees, says, and does.
- “Doing” involves a type of physical activity which is related to the lesson.
- Create scenarios where the learner is able to manipulate or actively participate in class activities.
- Most often, children retell how they physically participated in the class rather than what they “learned” in the classroom, to their parents.

The Teacher:

- Evaluate yourself and your teaching methods regularly.
- What physical activities do your learners partake in during your lessons?
- How often do all gateways to knowledge get used in your classroom?
- Do you change your activities in the classroom, or can your students predict your lesson?

Examples how to use the Gateway of the Hands in your classroom:

1)

4)

2)

5)

3)

6)