

Concept Definitions

When to use Use this format when you need to present the definition of a concept.

Definition format This generic format best presents the definition of a concept.

A (*concept tag*) is an (instance) of a (larger known group to which it belongs) with —

- -
 - (this list of critical attributes).
-

Definition of pencil

A *pencil* is a writing instrument that —

- is long enough to hold comfortably in the hand.
 - has a sharpened point on one end.
 - has an eraser on the opposite end.
 - uses a thin rod of graphite as a writing medium.
 - sheathes the writing medium in wood to strengthen the graphite and to facilitate sharpening the point.
-

Definition of example

An *example* is a representation of a single instance of a concept.

Various instructional media may represent an example, including these —

- spoken or sung.
 - pictorial or photographic.
 - printed or electronic text.
-

Definition of learning

Learning is a change event during which data —

- enters a person's central nervous system through the senses.
 - stays in short-term memory temporarily for possible processing.
 - undergoes processing, if it has value to the person.
 - is stored in long-term memory for re-use, if it is connected with strong feelings.
-

More...

More... Concept Definitions

Question



How does this concept of learning help an instructor to analyze possible causes of learners' forgetting what a course expects them to retain?

Definition of change

Change is a process in which the people involved —

- are dissatisfied and uncomfortable with the present situation,
- are aware of attractive alternatives to the basic situation,
- have strong feelings of interest in one best feasible option, *and*
- commit to one best feasible option, because its –
 - benefits are greater than the benefits of the present situation, *and*
 - costs are less than the costs of the present situation.

Formula for managing change

The formula for managing change is

$$Ch = d \cdot a \cdot b \cdot c > x$$

where this symbol... represents this concept... .

Ch	change
d	dissatisfaction with the present situation
•	co-exists with
a	awareness of attractive alternative(s)
b	interest in one feasible option as “best”
c	commitment to best option
>	offers greater benefits and less costs than
x	the present situation

Question



How does this concept of change, and the “formula” for managing change, assist an instructor’s process of analyzing possible causes of failure to “motivate” learners?

More...

More... Concept Definitions

Definition of intelligence

Intelligence is a measure of human capability that depends upon the interaction of —

- brain power, which is constant from birth.
 - knowledge, which is unique and variable.
 - strategies, which can be learned.
-

Formula for improving intelligence

The formula for improving intelligence is

$$i = b \cdot k \cdot s$$

where this symbol... represents this concept... .

i	intelligence
b	brain power
•	co-exists with
k	knowledge
s	thinking strategies

Question



How does this concept of intelligence, and the “formula” for improving intelligence, affect an instructor’s expectations for the learners’ level of competence?
