

## LEARNING

Sometimes learning is a lot of work; especially if you're trying to learn something that you don't already know. Like the illustration to the right, learning can seem like a large volume of stuff being funneled into your brain – I guess that where “cramming for an exam” came from. The fact remains that understanding a lot of facts over a short period of time can be challenging and down right fatiguing. While a lot of work, learning can also be very rewarding and beneficial; it may not be compulsory, or seem necessary, but *neither is survival* according to Edward Deming.



Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival.

- W. Edwards Deming  
US business advisor & author  
(1900 - 1993)

Learning should not only be relegated to school or homework, but should be habit or practice of every day life. As we breathe, eat, sleep, and play; so should we learn as a part of our routine, our daily ritual, and our life long goal.

Doris Lessing describes learning as *understanding something in a different or new way*. If we know today that a ball thrown into the air will surely fall; perhaps we will soon understand the natural force called “gravity” that causes the ball to fall. Many examples of learning upon learning can be recalled even as children. Last week, you may have learned that any number divided by the number one is itself; but this week you may learn that any number divided by itself is one – both similar equations although expressed in a different way.

That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way.

- Doris Lessing

Think of learning upon learning as building a great wall or structure - the strength of the structure is only as good as the foundation of initial structure, and each increment of learning is another brick laid on a firm, solid wall. In the matter of daily learning, you may ask the basic question: “What did I learn today?” Kevin Marler said that the answer to this question is a reflection of *who you are*.

Tell me what you learned last and I'll tell you who you are.

- Kevin Marler

When you were younger, and we were together, I use to frequently ask you: “Tell me one thing you learned today at school?” This question was probably not always welcomed, but had the intention of opening conversation to find out who you are...or what you are becoming from

you learning experience. Never stop learning – it will do you well.

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