**Learning types and learning activities**

In the table below you see an overview of six learning types and corresponding learning activities from the ABC model.[[1]](#footnote-1) You may want to look at this overview before or while designing your course.

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| **Learning types** |
| **Acquisition**  | **Collaboration**  | **Discussion**  | **Investigation**  | **Practice**  | **Production**  |
| Learning through acquisition is what learners are doing when they are **listening to a lecture or a podcast, reading from books or websites**, and **watching demos or videos**.  | Learning through collaboration embraces mainly **discussion, practice and production**. Building on investigations and acquisition it is about **taking part in the process of knowledge building itself**.  | Learning through discussion requires the learner to **articulate their ideas and questions**, and to **challenge and respond to the ideas** from the teacher and/or from their peers.  | Learning through investigation guides the learner to **explore, compare and critique texts, documents and resources** that reflect the concepts and ideas taught.  | Learning through practice enables the learner to **adapt** their **actions to the task goal and use the feedback to improve** their **next action**. Feedback may come from self-reflection, from peers, from the teacher, or from the activity itself, if it shows them how to improve the result of their action in relation to the goal.  | Learning through production is the way the **teacher** **motivates the learner to** **consolidate what they have learned** by articulating their conceptual understanding and how they used it in practice.  |

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| **Learning activities[[2]](#footnote-2)**  |
| **Acquisition**  | **Collaboration**  | **Discussion**  | **Investigation**  | **Practice**  | **Production**  |
| *Conventional method** Reading books, papers
* Listening to teacher presentations face-to-face, lectures
* Watching demonstrations, master classes

*Digital technology** Reading multimedia, websites, digital documents and resources
* Listening to podcasts, webcasts
* Watching animations, video
 | *Conventional method** Small group project
* Discussing others’ outputs
* Building joint output

*Digital technology** Small group projects using online forums, wikis, chat rooms etc. for discussing others’ outputs
* Building a joint digital output
 | *Conventional method** Tutorials
* Seminars
* Discussion groups
* Class discussions

*Digital technology* * Online tutorials
* Seminars
* E-mail discussions
* Discussion groups
* Discussion forums
* Web-conferencing tools (synchronous /asynchronous)
 | *Conventional method** Using text-based study guides
* Analysing the ideas and information in a range of materials and resources
* Using conventional methods to collect and analyse data
* Comparing texts
* Searching and evaluating information and ideas

*Digital technology* * Using online advice and guidance
* Analysing the ideas and information in a range of digital resources
* Using digital tools to collect and analyse data
* Comparing digital texts
* Using digital tools for searching and evaluating information and ideas
 | *Conventional method** Practising exercises
* Doing practice-based projects
* Labs
* Field trips
* Face-to-face role-play activities

*Digital technology** Using models
* Simulations
* Microworlds
* Virtual labs and field trips
* Online role play activities
 | *Conventional method** Statements
* Essays
* Reports
* Accounts
* Designs
* Performances
* Artefacts
* Animations
* Models
* Videos

*Digital technology** Producing and storing digital documents
* Representations of designs
* Performances, artefacts
* Animations
* Models
* Resources
* Slideshows
* Photos
* Videos
* Blogs
* E-portfolios
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1. Clive Young and Nataša Perović, UCL (2015). ABC Learning Design method and Laurillard, D (2012). Learning types. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. You can find additional learning activities here <https://bit.ly/3x1cfQV>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)