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# Effective Learning with Multi-Media

In this presentation, learners will review  
eight principles of *Multi-Media Learning*

Created by Keith V. Bletzer, Editorial Board  
*Anthropology-Open Access Journal*

# ***Multi-Media Learning (2001)***

**Richard E Mayer**

**proposes:**

**3 foundations (multi-media)**

**2 cognitive stressors**

**3 steps into memory**

**3 assumptions (cognition)**

# 3 foundations (multi-media)

## Intelligibility and Plausibility

‘Compatible’ and ‘Consistent’  
with how people learn

**Applicability**  
*fits with multi-media*

# 2 cognitive stressors

Intrinsic Cognitive Load:

inherent difficulty of material

Extraneous Cognitive Load:

how the message is designed

# 3 steps into memory

Selecting: attends to relevant words and pictures, especially core items & main steps

Organizing: builds *internal* connections, creates coherent model (verbal or pictorial)

Integrating: builds *external* connections with coherent model *and* prior knowledge

# **3 assumptions (cognition)**

## **Paired Channels**

**Visual and Auditory**

## **Limited Working Memory**

**5 to 7 items, or 5 to 7 chunks (items)**

## **Active Processing**

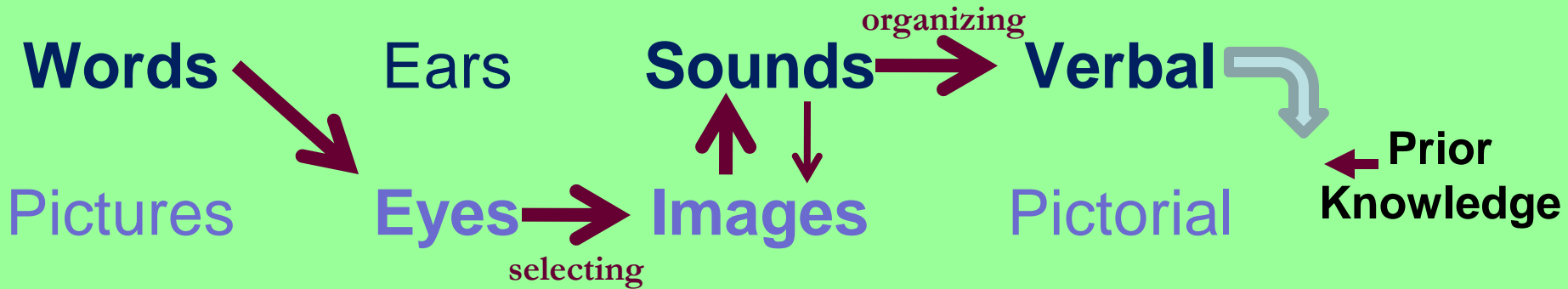
***Attend to input***

***Organize it -- Integrate it***



# This is more work...

**Printed Text**



Lesson

Sensory  
Memory

Working Memory

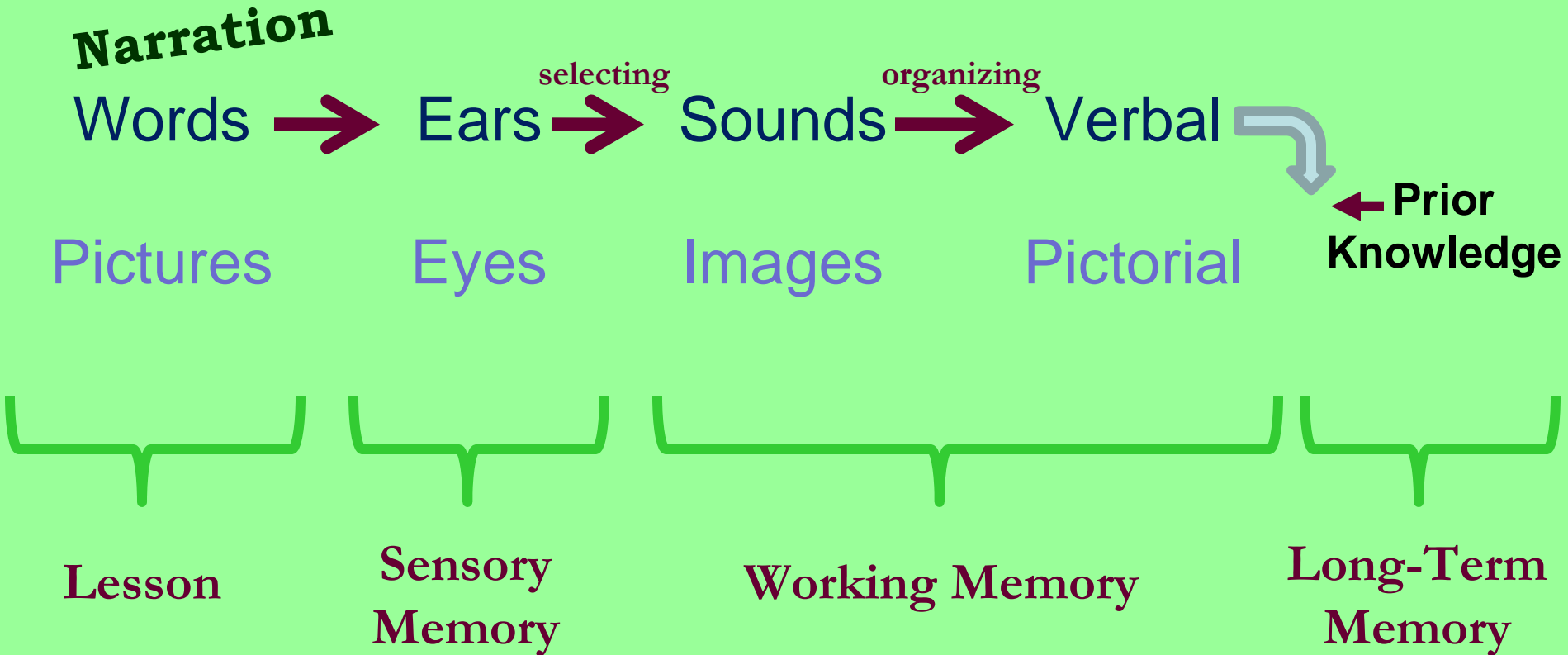
Long-Term  
Memory

# Multi-Media Model

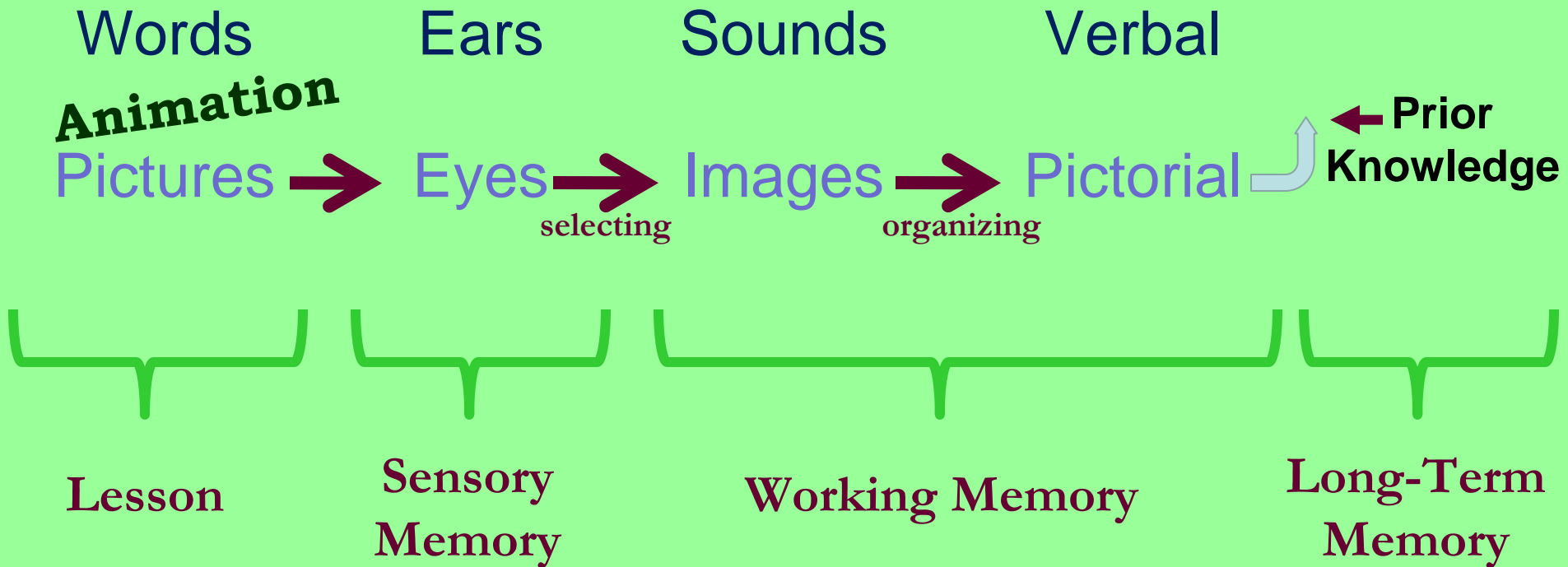
## Paired Presentation

“Narration” & “Animation”

# One Channel



# One Channel

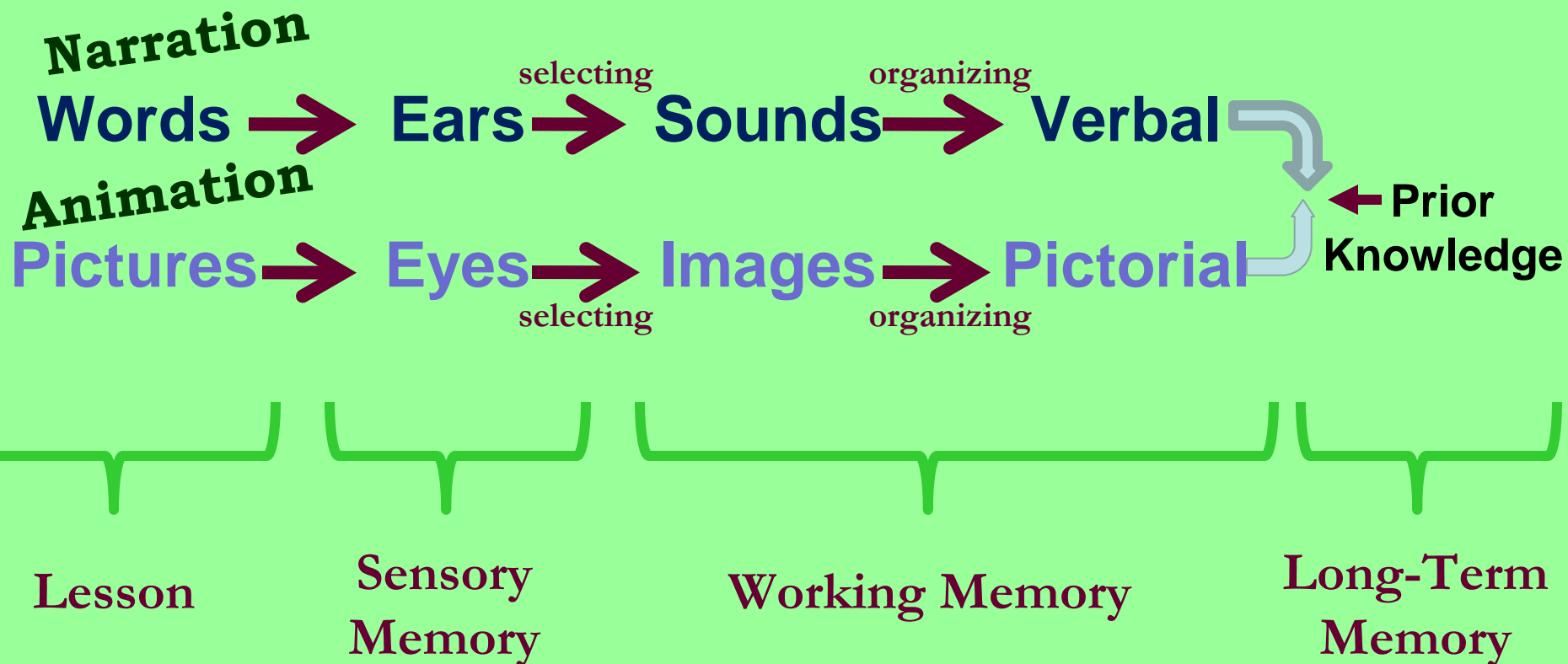


# Multi-Media Model

## Dual Channels

“auditory” and “visual”

# This is less work...



# One learns better when words and picture appear near each other, than words alone

- Words and pictures together encourage verbal and pictorial mental models; assist making mental connections between them
- Narration = Words & Animation = Pictures

**Multimedia**

**One learns better when related pictures & words are presented spatially near, not far, and not on top of visual**

Words and pictures together are held in working memory; focus attention better; and reduce need “to search” page/screen

**Spatial Proximity**



**One learns better when words and pictures are presented simultaneously, rather than successively**

Bits (*chunks*) of narration and animation are held in working memory more easily; encourage mental connections between verbal and visual representations

**Temporal Contiguity**

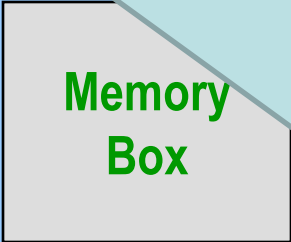
# One learns better when extraneous stuff is excluded, rather than included

Extraneous stuff competes for energies in working memory; diverts focus from core idea & moves into inappropriate themes; disrupts organizing the material cognitively

**Coherence**

Chunking is bunching  
together for meaningful  
cognitive processing

chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks  
chunks



**chunks?**  
**got chunks?**

**get chunks**

**get  
chunks**

**chunks**

**get chunks**

**Chunking is  
items in memory**



**Better**

chunks

chunks

chunks

chunks

chunks

chunks

chunks

chunks

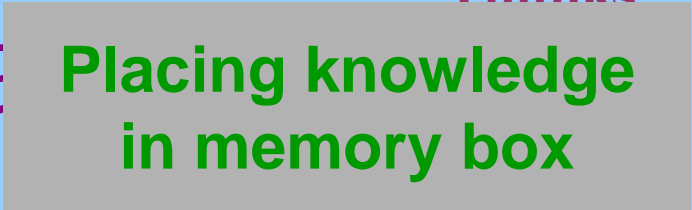
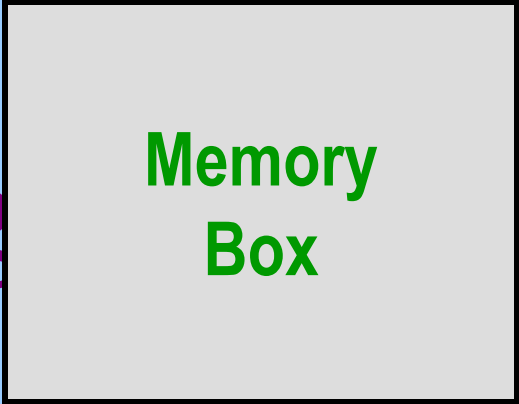
chunks

chunks

chunks

# Chunking is bunching together of meaningful

cognitive



## **IN THIS EXAMPLE**

**Coherence is increased through  
enhanced spatial proximity and  
enhanced temporal contiguity;  
Animated text is used, no narration;  
Extraneous text/animation is removed.**

# One learns better from animation and narration, than animation and on-screen text

- Words through auditory/verbal channel are more easily processed, which leaves open visual/pictorial channel (prevents “jumble”)
- More effective if spoken, than printed text

**Modality**

# One learns better from animation and narration, than animation/narration with text

- Pictures & words together (animation/text) can sometimes overload the visual channel
- More effective to teach thru two channels, that is, *Auditory* and *Visual*

**Redundancy**



# Viceroy Butterfly (tastes good)



Photo by Paul B. Southerland

# Monarch Butterfly (tastes bad)



Photo by William T. Hark

# Viceroy

# Monarch

Mimicry means “to copy” an appearance for self-protection. Think of yourself walking down the street of a strange neighborhood. If you “dress” like most the people around you, you will be “safer.”

Our lesson today is Natural Selection.

Tastes good



Tastes bad





**Better**



**Viceroy**  
**Tastes good**



**Monarch**  
**Tastes bad**





## Protective Coloration

preserves “bad,” mimics “good”



## **IN THIS EXAMPLE**

**Coherence is increased through  
enhanced spatial proximity;**

**Extraneous text is removed;**

**Printed text is separated from visual,**

**but could be replaced by brief narration;**

**No animation is used, would be extraneous.**

**Design effects are stronger for low-knowledge & high-spatial, than those learners who are high-knowledge & low-spatial**

High-knowledge learners use prior ideas to compensate poor guidance; high-spatial integrate visual/verbal images more easily; low-spatial require extra effort with images which detract from grasping visual / verbal

**Individual Difference**



# Moderate arousal produces situation of greater learning than high or low arousal

Scare tactics, abrasive punishment, extreme threats and forceful put-downs do not generate conditions that are ideal for effective learning

- Lancy and Grove (2010)

## Positive Environment

# What makes good multi-media?

- Mixed modalities -
- Simultaneous elements -
- Integrated meaningful structures -
- Concise -

## What should one aim for?

Conceptual, not topical relevance

Focused, not split attention

# Credits

*Multimedia Learning*, 2001, Richard E. Mayer  
(Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press)

**“SMART, SMARTer, SMARTest,”** Teaching Workshop Presented at  
Annual Conference, Arizona Technology in Education Association  
Vail, Arizona, October 29, 2012

**“Language Play,”** 2009, Don L.F. Nilsen and Alleen Pace Nilsen,  
Department of English, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

**“The role of adults in children’s learning,”** D. F. Lancy & M. A. Grove, 2010,  
D. F. Lancy, J. Bock & S. Gaskins (editors), *The Anthropology of Learning in  
Childhood*, pages 145-179 (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press)

Butterfly pictures: Paul B. Sutherland and William T. Hark ([google.com](http://google.com))

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Taught High School Science 3 years / Credit Recovery 2 years (Tucson, AZ)  
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**Not**  
**THE END**