

Some Enemies of Learning

Generic obstacles

- Cognitive blindness – we do not know that we do not know.
- Not having questions about our questions.

Linguistic obstacles

- We cannot (or are unwilling to) admit that we do not know.
- We cannot recognise or admit that someone else may know.
- We do not give others permission or the authority to teach us.
- We confuse knowing with having an opinion (eg. flying a plane).
- We confuse knowing with having the truth - "I'm right".
- Self-doubt and lack of confidence - we cannot learn, given our negative self-judgements about ourself as a learner.
- Trapped in the judgements of others ("I have to get it right and be perfect").
- Always comparing ourselves with others – making negative judgements of ourself and/or others.
- Jumping to conclusions - we judge or assess everything instantly and are not open to different possibilities (often making negative judgements and comparisons).
- Addicted to answers - go to courses for tips, recommendations and instant solutions, not to look at self as a learner.

Emotional obstacles

- Too busy to learn - caught up in "busyness" and allocating no time to learning.
- Mood of significance - "I am an important person with status and know everything".