

**If you
can
dream it,
you
can
do it.**

WALT DISNEY

History's newest revolution: the power to change your life

This book is based on eight main beliefs:

1. The world is hurtling through a fundamental turning point in history.
2. We are living through a revolution that is changing the way we live, communicate, think and prosper.
3. This revolution will determine how, and if, we and our children work, earn a living and enjoy life to the fullest.
4. For the first time in history, almost anything is now possible.
5. Probably not more than one person in five knows how to benefit fully from the hurricane of change - even in developed countries.
6. Unless we find answers, an elite 20 percent could end up with 60 percent of each nation's income, the poorest fifth with only 2 percent.¹ That is a formula for guaranteed poverty, school failure, crime, drugs, despair, violence and social eruption.
7. We need a parallel revolution in lifelong learning to match the information revolution, and for all to share the fruits of an age of potential plenty.
8. Fortunately, that revolution - a revolution that can help each of us learn anything much faster and better - is also gathering speed.

This book tells its story. It also acts as a practical guide to help you take control of your own future.

The main elements of the revolution are twofold. They link the modern marvels of brain research with the power of instantly available information and knowledge.

Learning
is
most
effective
when
it's fun.

PETER KLINE
*The Everyday Genius**

* Published by Great Ocean Publishers Inc,
1823 North Lincoln Street, Arlington, VA2220.

to skim through four books in a day - and remember what you read?

In a world of instant communications, would you like to be able to tap into the combined knowledge and talents of humanity - on your own personal computer or TV screen?

In a world where perhaps only a quarter of all people will have full time jobs as we now know them, would you like to earn an excellent living doing the things you love to do?

In a world where education systems are under severe criticism, would you like some guaranteed methods to reduce the current failure rate?

In a world where everyone will have to plan for several different careers in a lifetime, would you like to learn the key principles about any new job simply, easily and quickly?

In a world where 20 percent of the population will soon be over 60, would you like to know how you can go on enjoying life well into your 80s or 90s?

In a world where soaring taxation and deficits threaten to strangle democracy, how can we achieve these results without spending an extra cent?

If these questions sound like the start of a glowing advertisement, relax. Every one of these results is possible right now, and all are being achieved somewhere in the world:

□ In Finland, the Government has engaged 5,000 students to teach their teachers how to use computers and information technology.⁴

The Learning Revolution model: *Everyone is now a teacher as well as a learner. And "for the first time ever children are taking over critical elements of a communications revolution".* ⁵

□ In China, eight-and-nine-year-olds at the Beijing 21st Century Experimental School are learning to speak fluent English by playing with giant crossword puzzles, quiz shows and other fun-filled games.

The Learning Revolution model: *For most people, learning is most effective when its fun.*

□ In New Zealand's Tahatai Coast Primary School, six-year-olds use computers to make CD-ROMs and plan their own "school of the future". Other six-year-olds build Technic Lego working models of their "21st century home". And they use computers to activate the solar-and wind-powered units designed to make each house self-sufficient in energy.

The Learning Revolution model: *Create the right environment and*

All children
are born
geniuses,
and we spend
the first six
years of
their lives
degeniusing
them.

BUCKMINSTER FULLER

even children from poorer families explode into self-directed learning.

□ In isolated Montana, America's least-populated state, all four-year-olds at the Montessori International nursery school can now read, write, spell and do basic mathematics even before starting school.

The Learning Revolution model: *The best time to develop your learning ability is before you start school - because most of your brain's major pathways are laid down in those vital early years. 6*

□ In California, former schoolteacher Jan Davidson and her husband Bob, who borrowed \$6,000 from their son's college savings to start an educational multimedia company, have since sold it for almost \$1 billion.⁷

The Learning Revolution model: *Great teachers can now teach millions of people, through the marvels of interactive electronic communications: and make a fortune doing the things they love to do.*

□ In Christchurch, New Zealand, Michael Tan has passed his seventh-form (13th grade) high school mathematics examination - at age seven. And 12-year-old Stephen Witte - regarded by teachers as a disciplinary problem - passed six university bursary examinations and won the Papanui High School's Physics Prize, but only after being given the opportunity to bypass four grades.

The Learning Revolution model: *People learn best when they want to learn, not at some predetermined age.*

□ In China, a 24-volume set of color encyclopedias, that once sold for \$1,000, can now be pressed as a compact disc for less than 50 cents. Bill Gates has become America's richest person partly by giving away such CD-ROM encyclopedias to sell other computer software.

The Learning Revolution model: *Even the "have-nots" can benefit from technology - but farsighted visionaries can do even better.*

□ In America, staff on one "accelerated learning" course at the giant Intel group increased their subject-knowledge 507 percent compared with a 23 percent gain by students learning by "normal" methods.⁸

The Learning Revolution model: *The new methods are paying off big in staff training.*

□ In Arizona, high-school teacher Leo Wood - using similar methods - has lifted his students' achievements in chemistry from 52 percent getting A, B and C grades to 93 percent.⁹

The Learning Revolution model: *Even complex information can be*

To learn it, do it!

ROBERT C. SCHANK
*Engines For Learning**

* Published by Laurence Erlbaum Associates,
365 Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642.

absorbed easily, and remembered, when learners are fully involved.

□ In Hastings, New Zealand, 11-year-olds up to five years behind in their reading are catching up in eight to ten weeks through a "tape-assisted reading program". A typical gain in that time is 3.3 years.¹⁰

The Learning Revolution model: *Even if you're well behind at school, it's not too late to catch up, using integrated learning methods.*

□ In California, the scientist who dissected Albert Einstein's brain, Professor Marian Diamond, is rearing the world's most intelligent rats - and providing big breakthroughs to speed up learning in humans.

The Learning Revolution model: *The brain research shows intelligence can soar in the right environment - and for humans too.*

□ In Beijing, China, the Clever Software Group Company employs 1,000 specialists to produce *Computer Tutor* and other CD-ROM programs that guarantee student examination passes. And CSC links all its staff members around China in an internal Intranet, which is now also being used as a model for other schools.¹¹

The Learning Revolution model: *Interactive learning technology provides some of the world's best business opportunities.*

□ In St. Louis, Missouri, the teachers at New City School¹² have collectively written an entire book, on how they're teaching every subject, at every grade, by catering to many different types of intelligence.

The Learning Revolution model: *There is more than one type of smartness - and we each have a learning style as individual as our fingerprints. Effective schools should recognize that and cater to it.*

□ In Alaska, students at Mt. Edgecumbe High School run four pilot companies. One order: \$600,000 for smoked salmon to Japan - as they study marketing, business, economics and Japanese.¹³

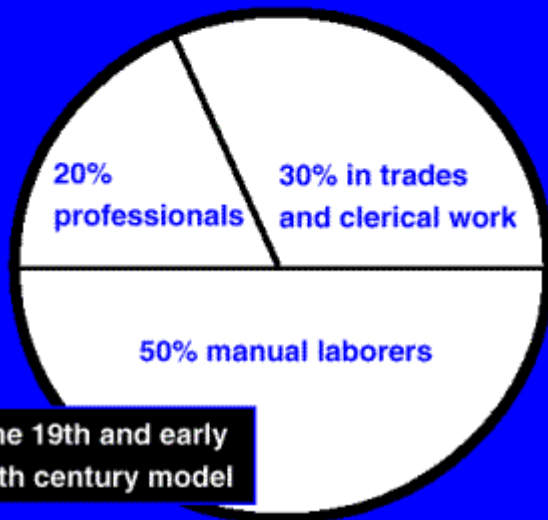
The Learning Revolution model: *Use the real world as your classroom, and to learn it, do it.*

□ Millions of youngsters have now learned the basics of geography from a CD-ROM game devised by two young Iowa trivia-quiz fans: *Where In The World is Carmen Sandiego?*

The Learning Revolution model: *Computer games can transform many aspects of learning.*

□ In Singapore, the Government is spending \$US1.5 billion¹⁴ to bring the world's best information technology to its schools and homes.

The old school model is dead



All schools are getting at least one computer for every two students; all students their own free Internet connection - to link with the 150 million others already "Net surfing" in 1999. Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong has laid out a vision of *Thinking Schools, Learning Nations* as the 21st century goal. The five-year IT budget totals \$2.5 million per school.

The Learning Revolution model: *You don't have to be a giant country or state to lead the world. Visionary government helps.*

□ In Sydney, Australia, students at Beverley Hills High School have learned to speak fluent French by compressing a three-year course into eight weeks - using revolutionary do-it-yourself learning methods.¹⁶

The Learning Revolution model: *Accelerated learning has been proven for years in foreign-language schools; now it's everybody's turn.*

Those examples may look like isolated facts. Yet they typify the most important revolution in human history. They hold the secrets to take us all confidently into the 21st century, no matter how small, big, rich or seemingly poor the country.

But the flip side of the future is bleak:

□ In affluent western Europe, 19 million people cannot find jobs.¹⁷

□ In even richer America, almost 27 million people are now living in poverty. More than 40 percent of that nation's poor are children. 40 percent of teenagers in New York City are unemployed; 20 percent in the rest of the country¹⁸ - while high-tech companies cry out for staff.

□ At Britain's worst-performing schools, the average 11-year-old is reading at a five-year-old level, while top-achieving schools are three years ahead of average.¹⁹ Some political leaders are talking about a ten-year program to lift all 11-year-olds to an 11-year-old achievement-level²⁰ - while just one of the successful programs covered in this book shows how that can be achieved in ten weeks!²¹

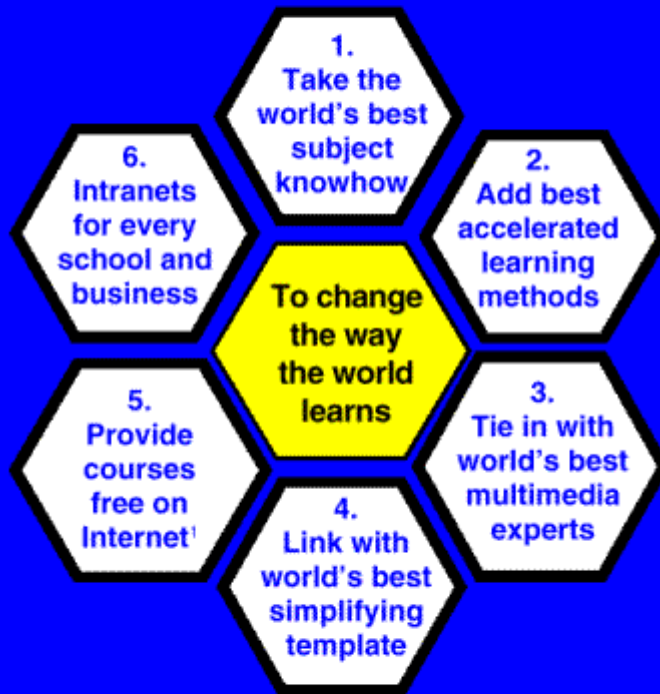
□ More than half of America's young people leave school without the knowledge or foundation required to find and hold a good job.²²

□ In America more than 270,000 students carry guns to school, and the New York City school system now operates the eleventh largest security force in the United States, with more than 2,400 officers.²³

This book recognizes that downside, but does not dwell on it. *The Learning Revolution* is about practical, proven alternatives: actions and programs that work, effectively and simply, to build a better future for ourselves, our families, schools, businesses, communities and countries.

Above all, it is a book about your personal learning revolution: how

Multimedia model for tomorrow's learning world



GORDON DRYDEN*

* Based on presentation to British Telecommunications' Foresight Forum on "Building the Communications Society", London, England.

to develop your own unique talents: to learn by using all your senses and your natural abilities.

These guidelines have come not a moment too soon. The old school model is as dead as the industrial revolution that spawned it. It may well have been fine 50 years ago to "educate" 20 percent of the population to be professional workers, 30 percent for trades and clerical jobs, and to leave the remaining 50 percent to be largely-uneducated farm and manual laborers. But to continue that policy creates a national and international disaster. Nearly all students now need to become self-acting, self-confident, creative "managers of their own future". The tragic alternative is to continue to create a dispossessed, unemployed underclass, as most of the old manual jobs disappear.

And even for graduates, knowledge gained in a degree course is often outdated even before graduation. Overall, the instant-communications revolution enables us to regularly update that information, and make it available, on demand, when it is needed by anyone who possesses the tools to access it.

We can thus now define many new models for the new digital age. In the multimedia model, it means we can:

- Harness the ability of the world's best "subject experts";
- Link their talents with the world's best specialists in simple, new, interactive, fun-filled learning techniques;
- Marry them to the world's most brilliant methods of interactive multimedia communications;
- Crystallize that work into simplified templates that make it easy to teach anyone anything in a way that suits each person's own style;
- Make such courses available instantly, free, to virtually everyone in the world through inexpensive network computer/TV sets - and almost as easy to operate as your TV.
- Set up intranet networks that can link each school with the Internet in a way that makes individual learning much more effective and much more fun - with teachers as professional managers and mentors, and schools as new interactive lifelong learning centers.

Some of the answers are so simple and self-evident it's amazing that no country has yet adopted them as national policy:

***□ Fifty percent of a child's ability to learn is developed in the first four years of life. 24
This makes parents the world's most important***

*Your own model for a
new learning world*

YOU LEARN BY

What you SEE

What you HEAR

What you TASTE

What you SMELL

What you TOUCH

What you DO

What you IMAGINE

What you INTUIT

What you FEEL

JEANNETTE VOS

From her Learning Revolution International workshops.

educators. Yet not one government spends even one percent of its educational budget on training its most vital educators.

□ *Self-directed learning is a major key. And if you provide the right environment and tools for self-learning even tiny children become enthusiastic and lifelong self-educators.* Maria Montessori, Italy's first woman doctor, was providing such environments almost 100 years ago,²⁵ and showing how three- and four-year-old "retarded" children could "explode" into writing, reading and basic mathematics. Yet most countries are still not achieving that result even for "normal" children.

□ *We now know that every one of us has a unique learning, working and thinking style.* Yet many high schools and universities still "teach" as if every student learns in the same way - the academic, abstract, theoretical way. " Research clearly illustrates that only about 30 percent of people learn best that way."²⁶ The other 70 percent learn in a wide variety of styles - best of all by actually doing.

□ *We are also living in an era where most people have the chance to extend their active life to well beyond 75 or 80 years.* Yet political leaders are locked in debate about how to secure "retirement" benefits for this aging population, when one of the real challenges is to create a new third age of active participation in a lifelong learning community.

Fortunately we now know how to reverse those policies. All the main answers are being practiced somewhere in the world.

This book obviously represents, of course, strong personal views. Everyone's ideas are mixed in a different cauldron. Ours have bubbled through a score of different brews. From one author's career that spans 50 years of business, marketing, advertising, public relations, journalism, radio and television. From the other's life teaching at every level, from preschool to university. From our joint efforts this decade in putting the new methods into practice around the world.

From that combined background comes a simple set of beliefs:

1. Virtually anything is now possible. We can achieve almost all the things that Utopians could once only dream about.

2. Nearly every problem has been solved, in part, somewhere in the world. Choose the best solutions and you'll lead the world.

3. Where problems have not been solved, we now have simple techniques to produce great new solutions.

4. You don't have to be a giant country, a giant state, a big company

Prove it to yourself in two minutes

How to learn to count in Japanese by seeing, speaking and doing

English	Japanese	Say	Do
one	ichi	Itchy	Scratch your
two	ni	knee. ¹	knee.
three	san	Sun,	Point to sky.
four	shi	she	Point to girl.
five	go	go	Walk.
six	roku	rock.	Rock 'n' roll.
seven	shichi	shi-chi	Double sneeze.
eight	hachi	hat-chi	Put on hat. ²
nine	kyu	coo	Coo like a dove.
ten	ju	ju	Don Jewish cap. ²

*Adapted from an accelerated-learning Japanese language-training course, demonstrated by Creative Learning Company, Auckland, New Zealand.

1. Say, "Itchy knee" and "Sun, she go rock," as sentences while you mime the actions.
2. If you haven't a hat or cap, mime the action with your hands.

or a large school to lead the world. In fact some of the most spectacular breakthroughs are coming from small schools and companies.

5. We are now at a key historical turning point. For hundreds of thousands of years our ancestors roamed earth as ill-clad hunters. Then, around 12,000 years ago they first learned to grow crops and put animals to work. This ushered in the world's first great social breakthrough. Between 200 years ago and 500 they unleashed the power of the printing press, science and steam to pioneer the next burst forward. Now we've entered the age of instant communication with almost anyone on earth, and the world will never again be the same.

This book is based in part on these beliefs. It's also based on a remarkable coincidence. In the early 1990s, the co-authors were working on different projects, in different parts of the world. Jeannette Vos was completing a seven-year research project for her doctorate in education. Her specific subject: methods that saw high-school underachievers making dramatic turn-rounds in only ten days at *SuperCamp*.²⁷ But it entailed much wider research: to check the world's best learning methods. Around the same time Gordon Dryden was touring with a television crew videotaping the world's best learning breakthroughs.

We first met by chance at a 1991 international learning convention in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. When the TV series and doctoral dissertations were finished, we swapped copies and background research. The similarities were amazing. The television and academic research dovetailed.

The findings were dramatic, the truth simple:

It is possible for anyone to learn almost anything much faster - often anywhere from five to 20 times faster - and often ten times to 100 times more effectively, at any age. Those learning methods are simple, easy to learn, fun-filled, common sense - and they work.

Better still, in the years since we first met, both authors have had the opportunity to tour the planet and to seek out new breakthroughs in schools, corporations and communities. In varying ways, we've acted as observers and participants in the excitement of the information revolution. We've also been honored to act with many other catalysts to successfully change the way the world learns.

The Learning Revolution tells you how that can be done - and is being done.

And how the future is yours to shape.

Gordon Dryden, Auckland, New Zealand
Jeannette Vos, Ed. D., San Diego, California, U.S.A.