

# UDL and differentiation and how they are connected

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Find out about UDL' from the Guide:

[Universal Design for Learning](#)

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## **Includes:**

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Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

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## Definitions of UDL and differentiation

An approach and a strategy.

**UDL is an overarching approach** focused on the inclusive design of the whole learning environment at the outset. UDL aims to ensure all students have full access to everything in the classroom, regardless of their needs and abilities. Student's supported to self-direct learning and monitor progress.

**Differentiation is a strategy** aimed at addressing each student's individual levels of readiness, interest, and learning profiles. The teacher modifies content and processes to address the needs of each student. The teacher directs students to specific activities to further their learning.

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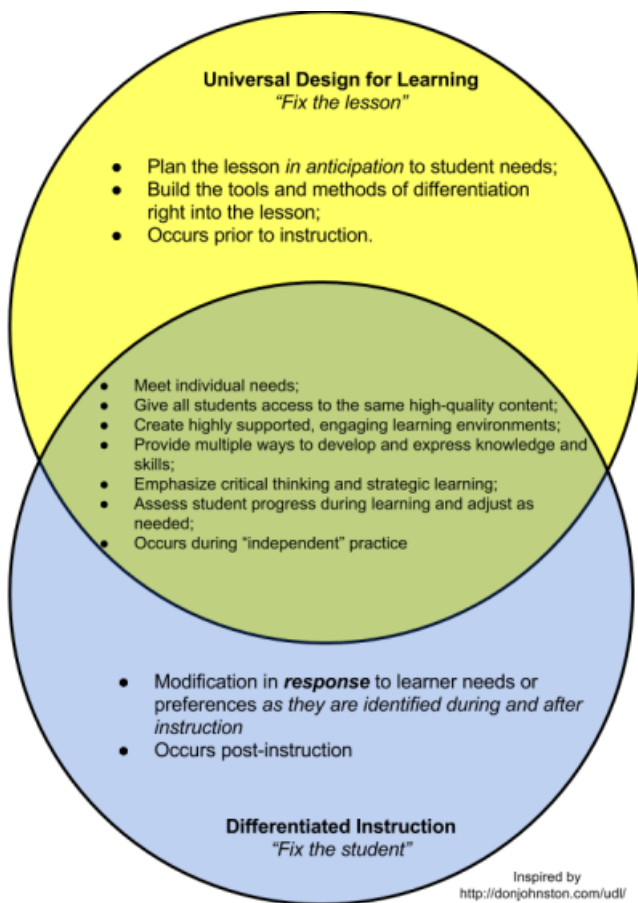
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## Differences and interconnections



Source:

[The Other Math](#)

<https://theothermath.com/index.php/2017/09/03/what-is-udl-in-the-math-classroom/>

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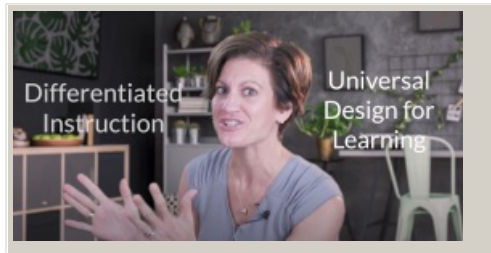
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## UDL vs DI: The Dinner Party Analogy

Katie Novak, EdD, breaks down what is Universal Design for Learning (and what it isn't!).



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/eYN-qrKIIYI>

Closed Captions

**Source:**

[Katie Novak \(US\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkm3lEcokOluQFLNltqZ7gQ>

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## Reflection questions

How does the idea of differentiation and UDL impact your practice?

Where do you make one off changes for learners that could be offered to everyone from the start?

Reflect on how your teaching approaches support students to independently identify next steps for themselves.

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## Useful resources



### UDL Intersections

Read time: 2 min

This short paper provides an overview of the differences and intersection between Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction. Developed by CAST.

[Download](#) PDF (334 KB)



### UDL vs DI: The dinner party analogy

Katie Novak uses the analogy of preparing a meal to meet a range of dietary request to highlight the differences between UDL and Differentiated Instruction (DI).

Publisher: Katie Novak

[Visit website](#)

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