



PUSHING THE LEARNING BUTTON

Last week I wanted to change the code on my garage door opener key pad and remote control unit but didn't know how to do it. I'd long ago lost the written instructions and was concerned about knowing what to do. But, lucky me, when I googled the name and model of the machine there were instructions as well as a video demonstration for me to look at (hurray for the internet...our ever present teacher). I went into learning mode.

You've probably seen the 'Easy' button that Staples, the office supply company uses as part of their advertising campaign. Did you know that garage door openers have a button labeled 'LEARN'?

The online instructions said that once I pressed the 'LEARN' button, I had to wait for the light on the machine to stop flashing and then go to the door key pad and key in a new number since the machine was now in 'learning mode' for 30 seconds. Once the new code was entered it would blink lights at me (visual signs) but also make beeping sounds (auditory signals) to tell me that the new code was encoded in its memory.

To my amazement the process actually worked. The machine had learned the new code.

To achieve garage door code changing success I needed to engage my own mental 'LEARN' button to gather the needed information to solve the problem and then sync what I'd learned with the machines 'LEARN' button.

I love the fact that the garage door opening machine designer thought of calling the machine's memory button 'LEARN'. How appropriate. LEARN buttons are all around us, if only we take the time to access them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Valerie Dixon, President of Learnware Design Inc., is a leading expert in the field of Training and Development. Valerie has over 40 years of experience in all aspects of training needs analysis and multi-media based learning design - including designing competency-based technical and management training programs, managing training designers and major training design projects and facilitating the successful implementation of training initiatives within both the private and public sectors.

Learnware Design Inc. offers a wide variety of training programs, tools and resources needed to achieve *Accelerated Competence™* – helping corporations, employees, training professionals and individuals learn faster, better and smarter.

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