

# [Social learning theories sutherland theory](https://assignbuster.com/social-learning-theories-sutherland-theory/)

the differential association theory- is one of the many theories of social learning of crime and deviance
- believed that deviance is a behaviour, similar to other behaviours can be learned through socialisation
- e. g. - context to Sutherland's theory - if someone is associated with criminals then they're more likely to participate in criminal behaviour
- because you will learn attitudes that will determine you to be either deviant or conformist to 'external social norms'background of key propositions- Sutherland states that through your associations with deviants - you believe that deviant behaviour is in fact normal
- people who don't associate with deviants don't believe this behaviour is normal
- incorporates 9 key propositions ONSOCIAL LEARNING THEORIES/ SUTHERLAND THEORY SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUFOR ONLY$13. 90/PAGEOrder Now1. criminal behaviour is learned- which is not inherited as a biological characteristics
- can learn criminal behaviours through family - not passed down genetically2. criminal behaviour is learned in interaction with other persons in a process off communication- communication can be verbal but behaviour can also be communicated by setting an example3. the principal part of the learning of criminal behaviour occurs within intimate personal groups- shows we learn deviance from our most intimate associates
- friends and family
- not impersonal relationships4. when criminal behaviour is learned, the learning includes - techniques of committing the crime and the specific direction of motives, drives and rationalisations and attitudes- several different dimensions of criminality that are learned5. the specific direction of motives and drives is learned from definitions of the legal codes as favourable of unfavourable- if you're surrounded by people who break the law, you think it's more acceptable to do it too6. a person becomes delinquent because of an excess of definitions favourable to violation of law over definitions unfavourable to violation of the law- the more illegal behaviours you define as acceptable
- the more likely you are to become 'delinquent'
- you go against norms of society - legal norms7. differential associations may vary in frequency, duration, priority and intensity- there are four key dimensions of differential association
- higher contact - higher criminal behaviours8. the process of learning criminal behaviour by association with criminal and anti-criminal patterns involves all of the mechanisms that are involved in any over learning- learning crime is just like learning anything else
- sample principles9. while criminal behaviour is an expression of general needs and values, it is not explained by those needs and values, since non-criminal behaviour is an expression of the same needs and values- one person might seek out money ans respect through criminal behaviour and another may seek the same things but through conforming behaviour
- the need of something cannot explain why a person turns to crime whilst another doesn't
- criminals have the same needs and values as non-criminals
- doesn't change morals - just learnt