The Magic of Flash Cards

Improve Your Memory!

Flash cards are the most successful learning tool for memorizing new vocabulary and concepts with definitions. They can also help you study and remember formulas, theories and methods. Flashcards are even great in helping you to memorize mnemonics.

Flash cards are helpful in several ways. Just the process of making the cards is a leading method for study. The cards are an effective way to predict possible test questions.

Flash cards are small and durable and can be carried with you easily. You can review your cards everywhere ... on the bus, in the car, over the phone, while at the gym, while watching a hockey game or even when you are in the shower!

Practice, practice, practice! Flash cards should be previewed often, and not just set aside once they are made. It is easier to learn a little bit at a time, and nearly impossible to cram all the information in your head the night before the test.

Use your flash cards with your friends and classmates.

If you’re working with vocabulary, learn the cards both ways, ie. by term and by definition. Actively review your cards several times a week. Flip through the cards by saying the words first and the definitions second, flipping the cards over to check your answer. Flip through them again, saying the definition first and the word second - once again checking your answers.

A great time for review is just before going to sleep at night. Your subconscious “replays” the last things you studied. Review for 10 minutes and then go to sleep.

Keep current! Make new cards each night and add to your collection.

A mnemonic device (pronounced "neh-mon-ik") is a memory aid. Commonly, mnemonics are verbal, like a very short poem or a special word used to help a person remember something.
Flash cards work because:

- They target important words and concepts.
- They encourage active learning (physically manipulating materials to learn).
- They reduce frustration and stress for tests.
- They promote long term memory with frequent and constant review.
- They provide easy and organized access to vocabulary for the entire semester or year.

Making Flashcards

Step 1  Use 3X5 note-cards that are blank on one side and lined on the other.

Step 2  Write the object to be learned, word or formula on the blank side of the card.

Step 3  On the lined side (back) write the definition or whatever you want to associate with the term or formula on the front.

Other tips ...

- Use different coloured inks/ felt pens on you cards to symbolize separate groups.
- Photocopy diagrams and white-out the terms. Can you label your diagram?
- Don’t put too much information on a card. Try to limit it to 3 things.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTRE

The Learning Assistance Centre provides a number of educational supports to students of RRC including: peer tutoring, course content workshops, study skill workshops, on-line resources, advising and referrals, in-class study skill presentations and tutoring services for students with a disability. Subject to tutor availability, peer tutoring is available at no cost to students enrolled in a variety of college programs. For more information, go to http://www.rrc.mb.ca/lac or call Ron Hamerling at 632-2251.