

Learning to learn toolbox

1. Memory techniques

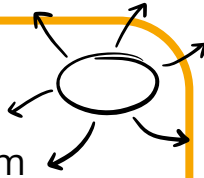
Pomodoro technique

The Pomodoro Technique is a time management strategy that encourages focused work sessions followed by short breaks. Students set a timer for 25 minutes of focused study (one "Pomodoro") and then take a 5-minute break. After four Pomodoros, they take a longer break (15-30 minutes). This helps maintain concentration, reduces fatigue, and breaks tasks into manageable parts



Mind mapping

Mind mapping is a visual tool that helps organize information in a diagram format. It starts with a central concept and branches out to related ideas and subtopics, making connections between them clear. This technique engages both visual and logical aspects of the brain, aiding comprehension and recall.



Mnemonics

Mnemonics are memory aids that use patterns, associations, or acronyms to help remember information. They are especially useful for memorizing lists or complex concepts.

Example: The acronym "PEMDAS" (Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, Subtraction) is used to remember the order of operations in math.



Flashcards

Flashcards are a simple yet effective tool for practicing active recall and spaced repetition. Students write a question or term on one side of the card and the answer or definition on the other, then quiz themselves regularly.

Example: A student learning new vocabulary can write the word on one side of the card and the definition or an example sentence on the other.



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Method of Loci



The Method of Loci involves associating information with specific physical locations or paths, making it easier to recall by mentally “walking” through the route. This technique leverages the brain’s spatial memory.

Example: To remember a grocery list, a student might visualize walking through their house and placing each item in different rooms: milk in the kitchen, bread in the living room, and apples on the dining table.

Spaced Repetition



Spaced repetition is a practice that involves reviewing information at increasing intervals over time. This method reinforces learning by revisiting material just before it is likely to be forgotten, which strengthens memory retention.

Example: A student can use flashcards and review them daily at first, then every few days, and eventually once a week to keep the information fresh.

Organisation



Structuring a text involves organising information into coherent and hierarchical segments, such as chapters, paragraphs, and sub-paragraphs. Research has shown that learning, even rote memorisation, benefits from grouping information in a structured way to aid comprehension and retention. This technique helps learners create connections between ideas and build a solid framework of understanding.

The Feynman Technique



Start by selecting a concept and writing down everything you know, adding new information as you learn. Next, explain the topic in simple terms to identify gaps in your knowledge and remove jargon. Write out your simplified explanation and refine it by reviewing and removing any confusing parts. Finally, test your understanding by teaching someone else and noting any questions they have, then compile your clear, refined notes in a binder for periodic review.