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Flashcards

Outcomes:

Learn how to use flashcards effectively

Practice creating some flashcards

Flashcards – an introduction

Watch this short [video](#) on using flashcards



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Why should I make revision aids?

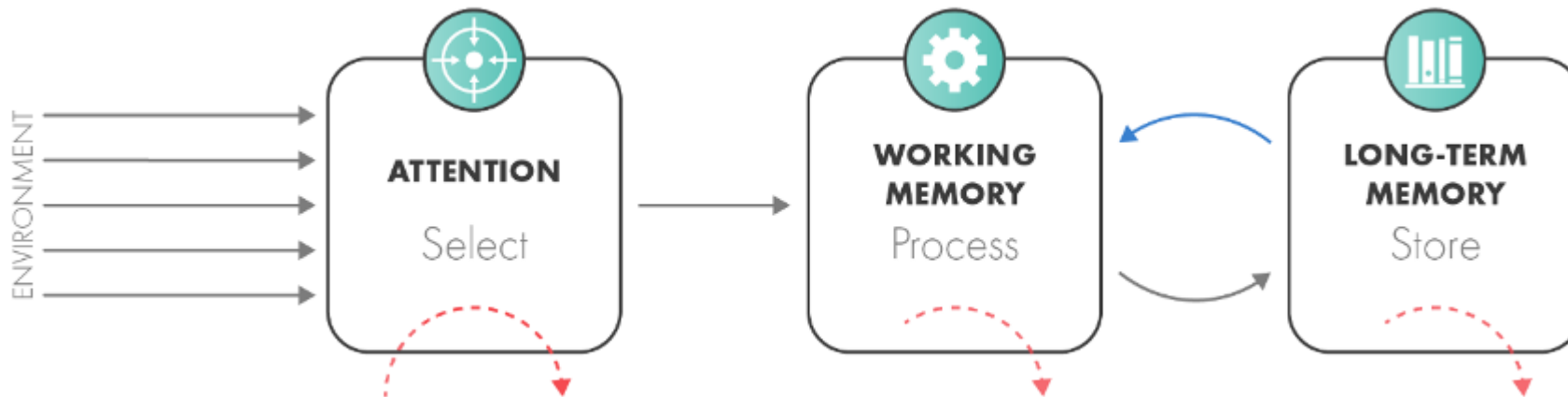


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Recreating information in your own way helps build strong neural pathways and memories.

These are unique to you...using someone else's recreation doesn't help you quite as much.

If you take someone else's pre-made cards – you deny yourself this learning process!



Take in information



Consider it, condense it



Write it into your own words

Add pictures with words



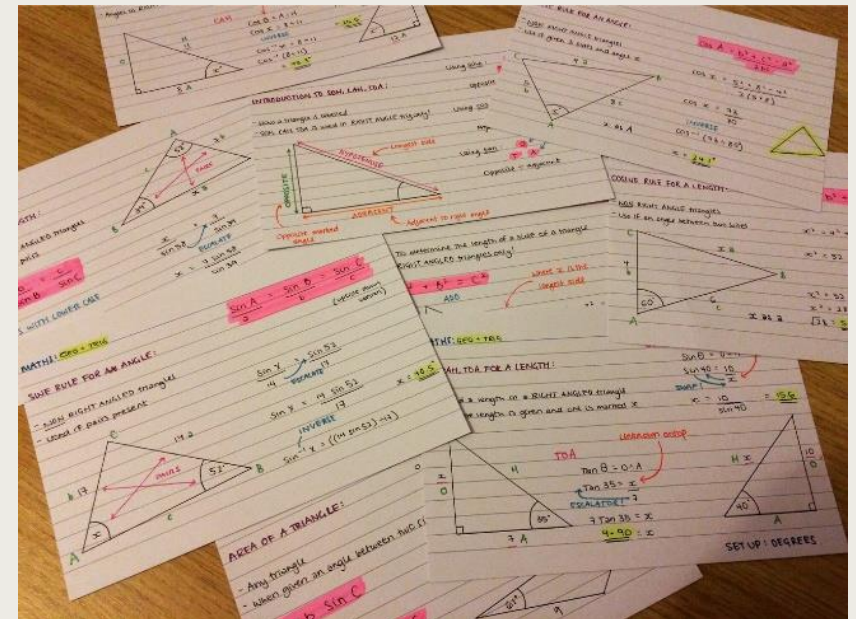
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As humans we relate and remember pictures much more easily compared to words.

Our brains are wired to be extra sensitive to images.

- ✓ Draw simple pictures/symbols
- ✓ Print out images from the internet and stick them on

Pictures next to descriptive sentences are proven to be more memorable compared to just an image or a set of sentences.



Mnemonics



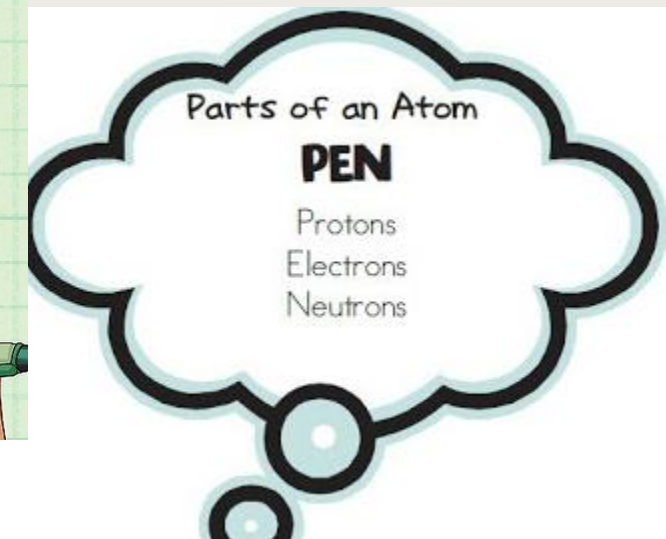
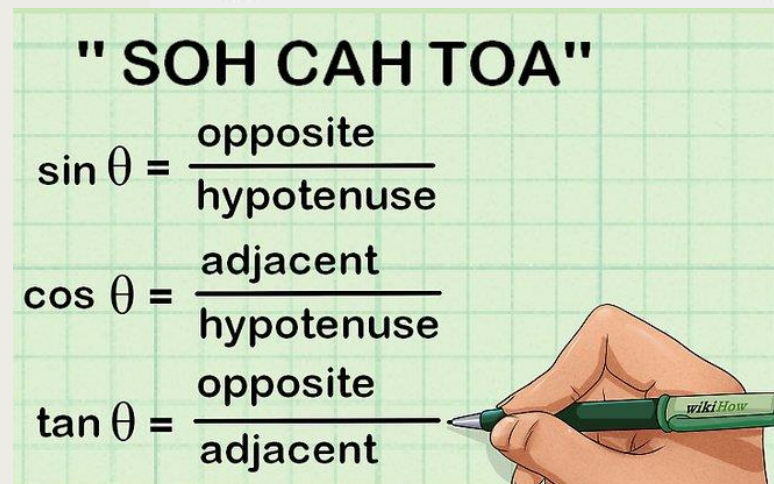
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A mnemonic helps you build links between two or more pieces of information

Keep them simple and memorable.

Remember: it only has to make sense to you.

So, it's better if you create the mnemonic or memory link.



Mnemonics – have a go!

All new species need to be classified. One system that can be used to name species is the Linnean system. You need to remember the pink words in order.

Make your own mnemonic...

- Kingdom
- Phylum
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species

E.g. Lions

- Kingdom – animal
- Phylum – vertebrae
- Class – mammal
- Order – carnivorous
- Family – cat
- Genus – big cat
- Species – lion



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Simplicity and recall



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One card – one question or one card – one small part of a topic

This helps our brains avoid confusion. We can easily mistake **recall** for **recognition**.

The more you break up the information onto separate cards, the less likely you are to miss key points.

If you used several bullet points per card, you may remember two or three then be tricked into thinking you understood all the information because it felt familiar (or you recognized it...)

Recognition	Recall
When revising it can be easy to think that you understand a theory, key word, question or something similar because you recognize it. This isn't the same as fully understanding it and being able to recall.	Actively being able to retrieve information from your memory without having to recognise it. It's basically the sign of truly understanding something.

Break up the difficult stuff

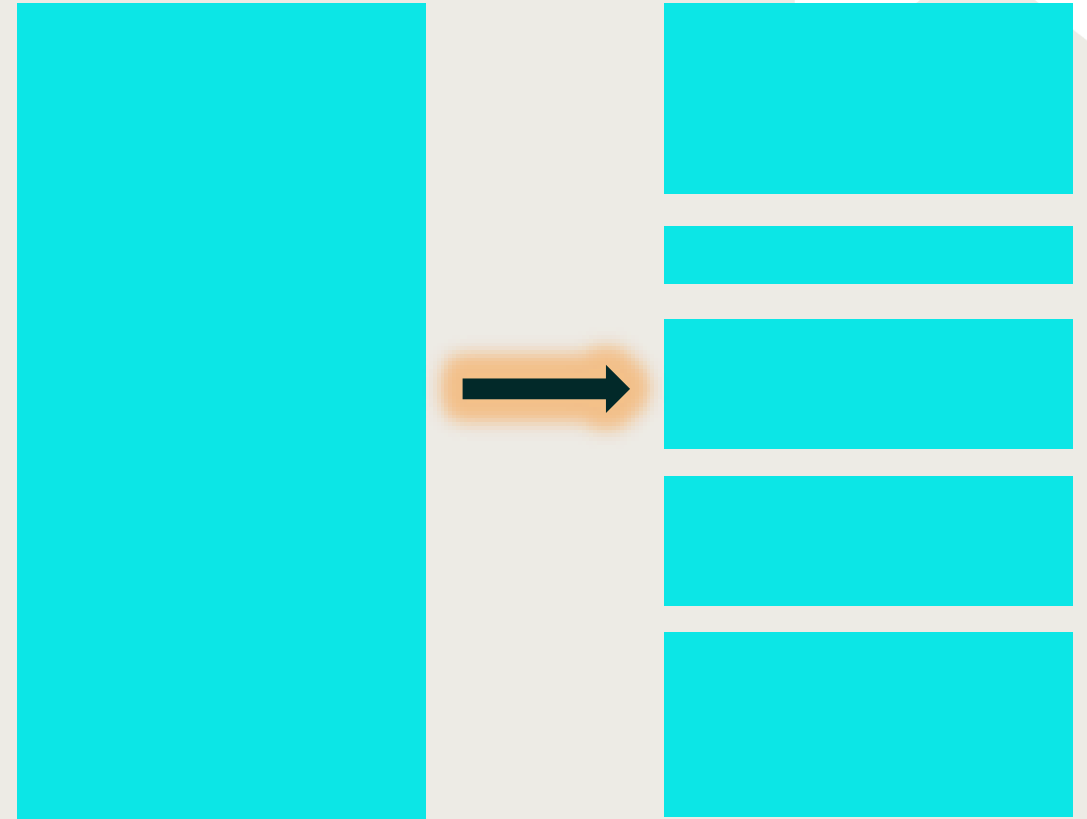
Group too much information on one topic you may slip into thinking you understand all of it because you understand some of it – the illusion of competence...

For example:

You're studying for a History assessment on The Vietnam War, specifically, why the USA lost. It's a broad and complicated topic including tactics, soldiers, weapons, technology and the home front. You might know and understand tactics and soldiers really well and recall lots of detail. If you don't break up this information you may have the illusion that you understand all of the factors as to why the USA lost.

Break up the topics onto separate cards and you are forced to make sure you learn the different parts separately:

- 1) Tactics
- 2) soldiers
- 3) weapons etc.



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Once they're made?

- Spaced practice
- Test yourself every day, every few days, every week – link to your revision timetable
- **Be honest with yourself.** If you didn't get everything right, you need to try again
- If you did understand everything, you must still go back and check in few weeks/a month



Task – make 3-5 flashcards and test yourself

- Cut out some flashcards
- Use the information that has been printed for you.
- **Make 3-5 flashcards** using the tips/techniques
- **Test yourself, test a partner**

How do you feel now about using flashcards as a revision aid?



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Online flashcards

Online flashcards are available, but remember the benefits to making your own and you might need to pay for some services

- ✓ Cram.com
- ✓ Quizlet
- ✓ Brainscape

The logo for Quizlet, featuring the word "Quizlet" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.The logo for Brainscape, featuring a stylized brain icon with a blue lightning bolt above it, followed by the word "Brainscape" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for CRAM, featuring the word "CRAM" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "C" in green and "RAM" in blue.

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