



# Study Skills

Another step toward success in Grade 9!

# Focus and Remember...

- The coordinating conjunctions in the English language are: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*
- The order of the Great Lakes from west to east are Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario.

# A good student...

- A good student is made, not born.
- A good student is made by the consistent and deliberate practice of good study habits.



# The 5W's and H

Before you begin studying, consider the *who, what, where, when, why* and *how* of the study process!

# Some are easier to answer...

- Who?
  - You!
  - Usually alone, maybe with a study group
- Why?
  - To increase your learning and ace the test or exam!

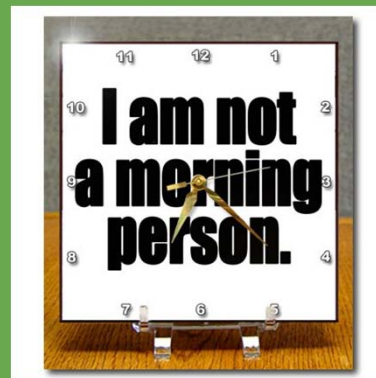
# Some questions are harder



- Where?
  - Most students work best in isolation - free from distractions and obstacles. (No phones!)
  - Find a number of study spots: at school, in the community, at home and rotate through these locations when you study.
  - Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-DJEU9N1y4>

- When?

- Everyone is different - choose the time you are most awake.
- Are you a morning person? Are you drowsy after lunch? Do you get a second-wind in the evening?



- When?

- Create a weekly study timetable. Be realistic – you need to eat, sleep, socialize, exercise, etc.
- Schedule working sessions **AND** breaks.
- Schedule several short study sessions rather than one long one.
- Use a one page calendar for quick glance and an agenda for detailed reminders of your schedule .





- When?

- Study for no more than one hour at a time without a break.
- A break doesn't have to be long. It can be only 5-10 minutes, but it's important that you take an intellectual breather during this period. Doing something completely different on your break will help refresh your mind.



# Now the hard part... *What and How to study...*

- What?
  - Identify Test or Exam Specifics
    - You need to determine what knowledge and skills are being evaluated. Gather as much information about the test/exam as you can.

## Gather the following information:

- Is there an outline or study guide available?
- How much is the test/exam worth?
- Which lessons could be part of the test/exam?
- What is the format of the test/exam?
- What type of questions will there be and how many of each?

- Is the test/exam open book?
- For problem-solving classes, will formulas be provided? Can you take in your own formula sheet and/or reference sheet to the test/exam?
- Are there any materials you will need to bring with you (e.g., calculator, dictionary, etc.)
- How much time will be available? Are you eligible for extra time?
- Is the teacher going to give a review session ahead of time? When is it? Is extra help available? When?

# *What to study*

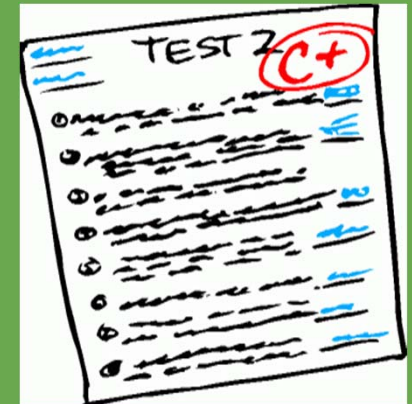
- Successful study includes organizing and integrating ideas.



# What to study

## Organize & Integrate Resources

- Previous Tests
  - Be sure to review any previous tests you've had in the course. Analyze errors you've made in the past, recognizing where you lost marks.



- **Make a Study Guide**

- Once you find out what will be covered on the test/exam, print out or gather up the handouts and notes.
- Organize these pages into piles, separated by topics. Label each of the piles with the corresponding topic title. Staple or paper-clip all papers in each pile together.
- Read through your notes and condense information

# Condense these paragraphs:

## Phases of the Moon

The moon looks like it shines with a light of its own, but looks can be deceiving. Moonlight is really sunlight that reflects from the Moon's surface.

The reflected light we see is always from the same side of the Moon. The reason involves how the Moon rotates (spins) and how the Moon orbits. It takes the Moon 27.3 days to make one full orbit around Earth. It also takes the Moon 27.3 days to make one full rotation. The rotation rate and the orbiting rate match, so we always see the same side of the Moon from Earth. The other side of the Moon - called "the dark side of the Moon" - always faces away from us, so we never see it.

The lit-up side of the Moon is always fully lit up, but we can't always see the whole lit-up side. Instead, we see changes in the amount of lit-up surface during a month: the phases of the Moon.



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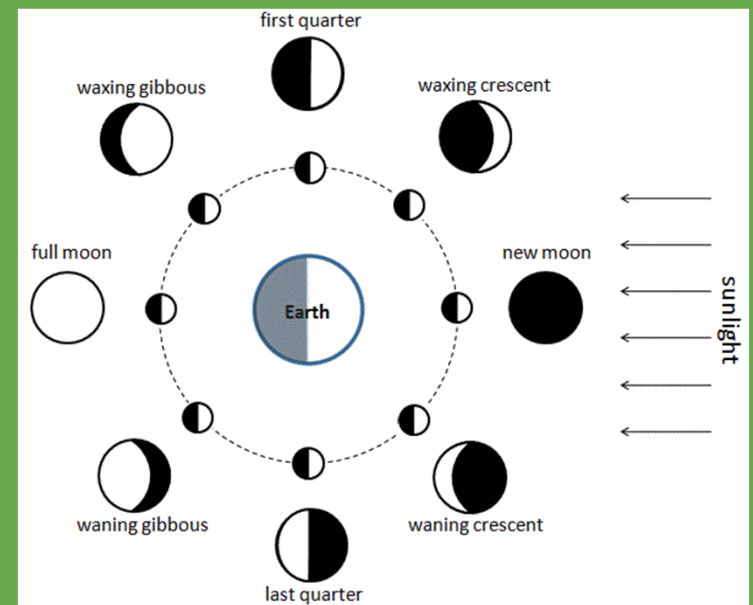
# Condense these paragraphs:

## Phases of the Moon

- Moonlight = sunlight that reflects from the Moon's surface
- Reflected light - always from the same side of the Moon
- Reason - rotation rate and orbiting rate match
- Lit side of Moon always fully lit - we can't always see all of it
- We see changes in the amount of lit surface during a month - known as the phases of the Moon.

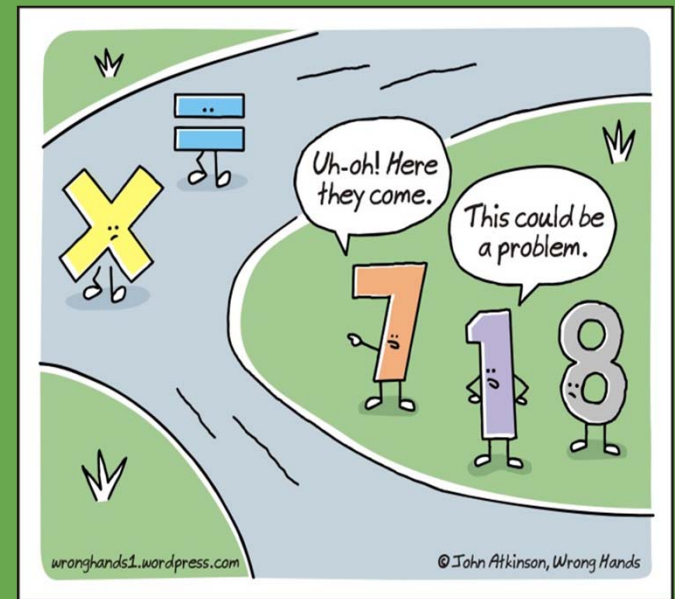
# What to study

- Create an Outline
  - An outline can be thought of as a condensed study guide.
  - Condenses large amounts of information from all sources into a logical system. (e.g. an easily understood diagram)

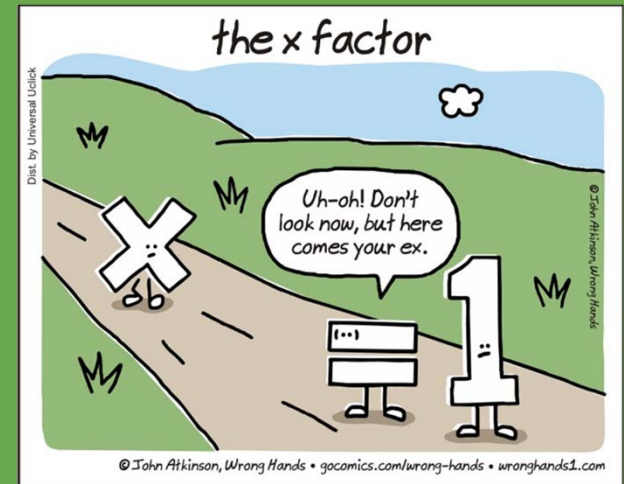


# What to study

- Building a Problem Set
  - For problem solving courses, adapt the study guide approach:
    - Start a pile for each type of problem that might appear on the test/exam



- Add sample problems from your class notes
- Match the problems with the related class notes
- Copy sample problems (just the questions) onto blank sheets and add them to the appropriate pile. Practice answering these questions and check your solutions against the answers provided in class.



# *How to study*

- It is estimated that our long-term memory can hold  $1 \times 10^{15}$  items of information- that's one thousand million million facts – so the problem is not our memory. The problem lies in getting the information into memory and recalling it when we want to.

# How to Study

## Sleep!

- This is when your brain moves information from your short-term memory to your long-term memory.



# *How to study*

## Review Material Regularly

- To effectively study, it is essential to regularly review the material from class, labs, textbooks, etc. Get into the habit of:
  - **Reviewing Your Notes Daily:** Edit your class notes as soon as possible to fill in any gaps. Re-read for comprehension. Make sure you collect all related handouts so that everything is organized.



- **Reviewing Your Notes Weekly:** At the end of each week, go through your notes to ensure you understand the content. Rewrite any notes that are too messy or disorganized. Organize your binders. Ensure the notes are placed in sequence. Make summary notes on the important concepts and information.
- **Identifying When You Need Help:** Get in the habit of asking questions, going to see the teacher or seeking out friends to help you grasp things that aren't making sense.



**HELP**

# *How to study*

- Set Goals and Create a Study Plan:
  - Divide your workload into manageable chunks.
  - Divide your available time into manageable chunks.  
Study frequently in shorter periods of time.
  - Pay attention to how much time you are spending on specific study tasks and stay on track with your study plan.

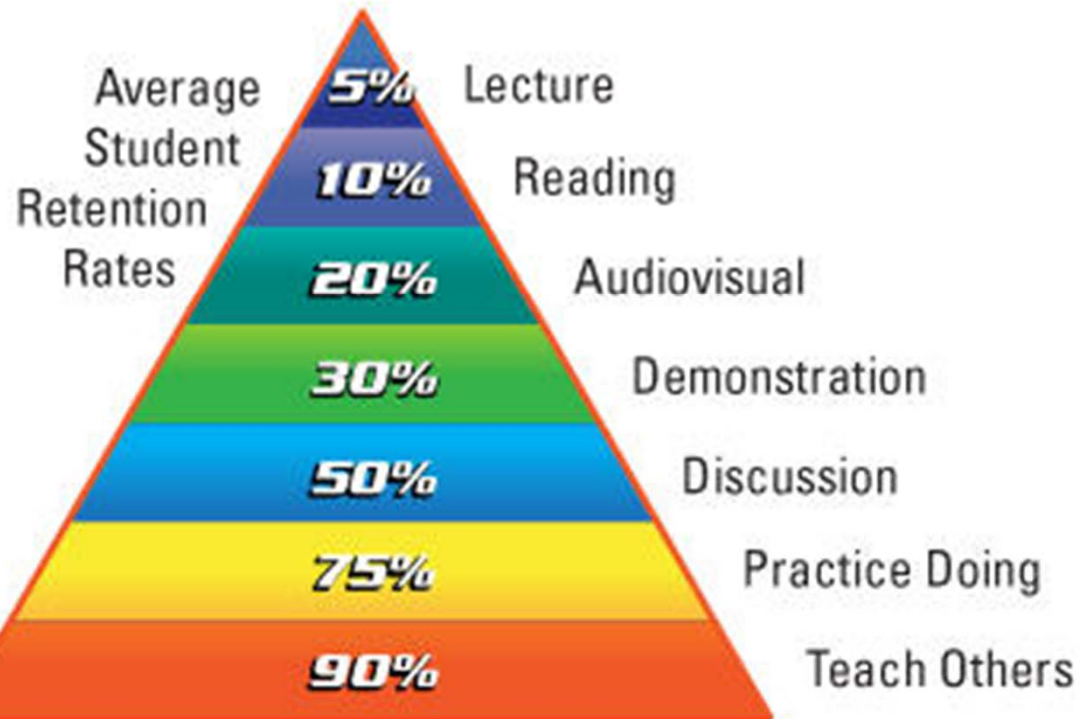
- Focus your energy on studying, not playing catch up. If you are already behind, try to prioritize, concentrating on the material most likely to appear on the test/exam.



# *How to study*

- Study Actively
  - Active studying means you have to be engaged with the content; stimulate as many senses as you can.
  - Most students make the mistake of relying on passive review (reading and re-reading notes and assignments). They assume the more times they read the content the more they will remember it. This is NOT effective.

# ***LEARNING PYRAMID***



# Some Active Approaches to try...

**ACTIVE STUDY STRATEGIES**

- ✓ - Sorting
- ✓ - Explaining
- ✓ - Quizzing
- ✓ - Summarizing
- ✓ - Diagramming
- ✓ - Mapping
- ✓ - Outlining
- ✓ - Chunking
- ✓ - Teaching
- ✓ - Writing
- ✓ - Labeling
- ✓ - Sequencing

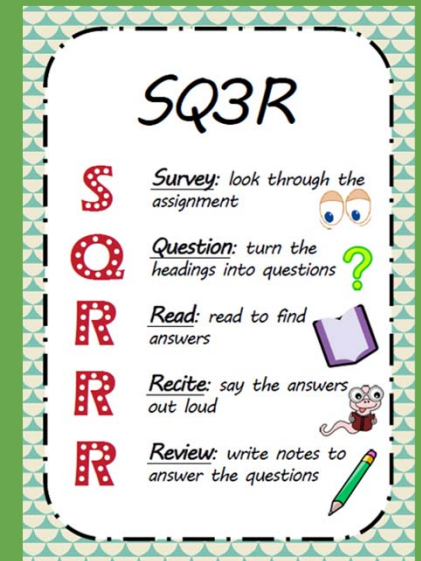
**BEING ACTIVE!**

Don't waste time studying unless you are...

KATE'S CLASSROOM CAFE

# 1) SQ3R:

- Survey - look through the test outline
- Question - turn the topics on the test into questions
- Read - to find answers to the answers in your notes
- Recite - say the answers aloud
- Review - write the answers to create a study guide



## 2) Cornell Notes:

- a format for condensing and organizing notes.
- divide the paper into two columns: the note-taking column (on the right) is twice the size of the questions/key word column (on the left).
- leave five to seven lines at the bottom of the page to summarize

Cornell Note Taking: Format	
<b>Recall Clues</b>	<b>Record</b>
Write recall questions here.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record notes here</li><li>• Remember to focus on testable information<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "big ideas"</li><li>○ definitions</li><li>○ supporting details</li></ul></li><li>• Bullet each piece of new information and skip lines to visually organize notes</li></ul>
<b>Summary:</b> Write a summary of notes recorded on each page in this section of your notes... Or, create this section on the last page of your notes only, and summarize all information there.	



### 3) Mnemonics

- Mnemonics are memory devices that help learners recall larger pieces of information, especially in the form of lists like characteristics, steps, stages, parts, phases, etc. Mnemonics increase recall. It has been found that students who regularly use mnemonic devices *increase test scores up to 77%!*



# Mnemonics...

- Remember the coordinating conjunctions in the English language presented at the beginning of the presentation? What are they?
- Remember the Great Lakes? What is their order going from west to east?

# Mnemonics

- Types of Mnemonics:
  - Acronym - combine the first letter of a list of words to create a one word reminder.
    - HOMES = Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior.
    - BEDMAS, Roy G Biv, and PACTS - what do they stand for?



# Mnemonics

- Order Mnemonics - create a sentence using the first letter of each word to remember order
  - Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge = musical notes
  - Never Eat Shredded Wheat = directions on a compass



- Spelling Mnemonics - assign a word that starts with each letter in the word you are trying to spell so they combine to make a sentence.
  - E.g. Rhythm = “Rhythm helps your two hips move.”
- Rhyme Mnemonics
  - E.g. “I before E except after C, or when sounding like A as in neighbour or weigh.”

# Mnemonics

- Remember the coordinating conjunctions in the English language presented at the beginning of the presentation? What are they?
  - Use the acronym FANBOYS to remember:
    - *for,*
    - *and,*
    - *nor,*
    - *but,*
    - *or,*
    - *yet,*
    - *so*



# Mnemonics

- Remember the order of the Great Lakes from West to East?
  - Use an **Order Mnemonic** to remember:
    - *Super Man Helps Every One*
      - Superior
      - Michigan
      - Huron
      - Erie
      - Ontario



# *How to study - the wrap up.*

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9SptdjpJBQ>
- Review the “Studying Top Ten Takeaways”
- Do a self assessment using the “Study Checklist”.





# Who remembers?

- Who remembers the coordinating conjunctions?
- Who remembers the order of the Great Lakes from West to East?



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STUDY  
ON**