

This tool creates personal note cards to use for study and review.

Study Cards

Looking through photo albums allows us to reminisce about past events. We start to remember all the details of that experience. We may remember feelings and even specific smells. Often we need a little help remembering those forgotten moments. Many of us use a cue system or prompt that helps us recall facts or details.



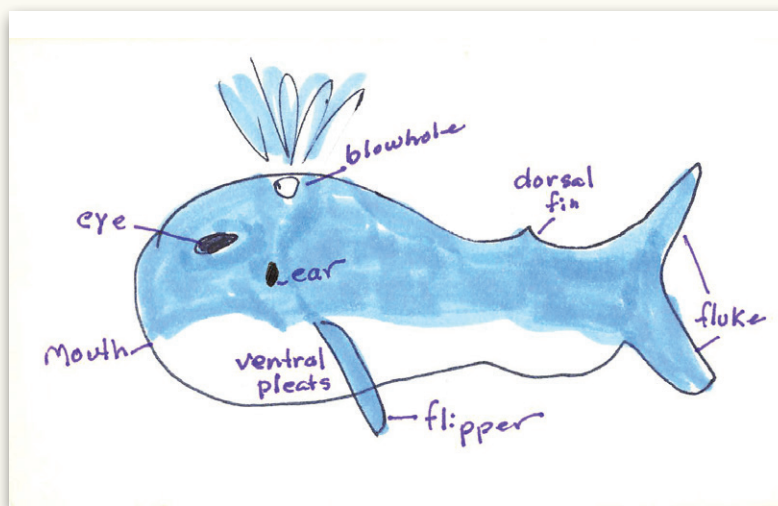
Teachers and students use Study Cards or flash cards as a tool to help recall information. They are a fast-paced learning tool that help the learner quickly revisit information and test knowledge. The use of Study Cards is a tried-and-true strategy based on research, assessment, and psychological theories, as well as effective best practices. Study Cards are accessible in many formats. They can be created on index cards, posters, or electronically through many popular apps. They can be used individually or in small or large groups. Study Cards can be a quiet activity, a language-based activity with lots of dialogue, and they can be media interactive. They provide a great way to present, practice, recycle, or spiral vocabulary.



Study Cards (continued)

Study Cards are used to assess for learning. They are versatile and can be used at any grade or developmental level and subject area. Use them to assess student's present level of knowledge on specific skills, while students can use them to self-assess and determine specific areas to study. Using sets created with different student expectations and levels of knowledge, Study Cards help teachers differentiate and scaffold instruction.

Students can customize Study Cards to process vocabulary, facts, and skills in a learning style preferred by the individual student. For example, students can create Study Cards for science vocabulary terms by drawing a picture to explain a term or writing the definition in their own words. This makes the terminology and definitions relevant to the individual student, helps each make connections to prior knowledge, and reinforces recall and retention. Study Cards with pictures, drawings, or color-coded fonts appeal to visual learners. They appeal to kinesthetic learners through a variety of activities where the cards are manipulated while studying.



Students create Study Cards to synthesize information learned in a lesson, quiz a classmate, or review for an assessment. You can collect and review the Study Cards to assess a student's understanding of a concept.

How to Use Study Cards

1. Create

Have students create Study Cards on a template, index cards, or cutout shapes. The cards should all be the same size and not transparent. Be sure they include important ideas, vocabulary, facts, and concepts from the material covered in the unit. You can buy premade Study Cards in sets. These can be found both in tangible form and electronically.

2. Collect

Collect the Study Cards to assess the students' understanding and, if needed, reteach material before the test or quiz.

3. Return

It is essential to return the Study Cards to the students, with any corrections, so they can be used to study for the test or quiz.

Study Cards (continued)

When to Use Study Cards

Use Study Cards to summarize and review information:

- ◆ During Guided Practice where students work in pairs to create the Study Cards
- ◆ During Independent Practice so that students can decide for themselves what information is important
- ◆ As a Closing Activity so students can review what they learned
- ◆ As an Entrance or Exit Ticket
- ◆ To evaluate the student's ability to discern the main idea or summarize a concept learned in class

Study Cards Variations

Memory

Play memory games with the cards. Place them face down and have students turn them over to find matching or correlating cards. Students can be timed to see how many cards and facts they can recall in a given time frame. Students play in groups, have two minutes to write as many facts from the cards as they can remember, and self-check with the cards when time is up.

Drilling

Place cards so students can see them. Point to a card and ask a student to state the fact on the card. Gradually remove the cards but continue to point to the area where the card was. Students should remember the information on the card as if it was still there. This is especially true if there are images that accompany the card. Ask students to draw or write the word or information of a card that is not placed out with the original set. This helps students process the information on the card and thus becomes long-term memory.

Identification

Students chorally drill the words with silly voices or different intonations to add fun. Provide cues by covering the cards and revealing only a letter at a time or part of the picture that is on the card. Students get a glimpse of a clue to help remember.

Movement Activities

Place cards around the room and say the word or give a clue for the information. Students point or go to the place in the room where the card is located. Students give each other clues for cards placed in the room to incorporate cooperative learning experiences. Place cards on the floor and have students do motor activities on the cards. For instance, for the word "Bunny," students hop to the bunny card, or for the word "fish," students swim to the fish card.

Value of Using Study Cards

- ◆ Study Cards are a staple in education and are very impactful when used with deliberate intentions to effectively teach students.
- ◆ Students use Study Cards to practice skills and recall facts. Active recall creates a stronger neuron connection for that memory to be retrieved. This is a great tool to easily facilitate repetition and can create multiple memory-enhancing events.
- ◆ Using Study Cards to check accuracy of knowledge enables students to recall and remember the correct information easier. For instance, when learners look at the back of the cards to check if their answer is correct, they typically think, "How did this answer compare to what I was thinking?" Or, "How well did I know or not know this?" This type of analyzing is an act of metacognition, the act of thinking about how you are thinking. This activity results in deeper learning.



Study Cards (continued)

- ♦ Students and teachers can use the cards as a tool to determine how much or little they need to study specific information. By separating the cards into piles of those that they know and those that they still need to review, the learner has confidence that their learning is progressing. This results in an optimal strategy to improve memory performance.
- ♦ Study Cards help students utilize spaced repetition by reviewing information in intervals, rather than in a single chunk of time. For instance, the student may study with the cards on Day 1, skip Day 2, study again Day 3, skip Day 4 and Day 5, then study again Day 6. This spaced repetition has been proven to be more effective to increase retention and recall.
- ♦ Students begin to self-monitor and self-assess their progress and self-test using Study Cards. When students are able to gauge how much they know and what they need to continue to work on, they are motivated to work harder and be successful.
- ♦ Study Cards allow students to learn definitions which, in turn, improves comprehension and enriches their vocabulary. When images are paired with the cards, effectiveness is increased. This is especially effective to use with ELL students to cultivate reading fluency.

Once students are familiar with Study Cards, they can be used in centers, in peer cooperative learning, as individualized sets to play educational games, as an early-finisher activity, or taken home for parents to interact with their child's learning. This tool provides the teacher and the learner a structured method for informal assessment and assists the teacher in determining how to best proceed with instruction.