

Study Skills – Smarter Ways to Study

Rohan, a studious boy used to study hours together, but even after studying so hard, he used to get less than desired marks. With him, his parents were also very sad. You will agree with me that at such difficult and sad times, it is not advisable to argue but to find a solution with a very calm mind.

This is the situation in almost all the houses where children study. All the parents are indeed concerned about the success of their children. Gone are those days where students used to rote the concept and spell it out in front of the teachers. Here are the days where knowledge is used in the most practical manner. As we modify our educational system, more emphasis is given on the practical application of knowledge. For doing this, better study skills should be inculcated in children right from the primary classes. Learners have to approach vast amounts of information— this age is aptly called the Information Technology age. Due to the availability of information at our finger tips, there has been a significant change in teaching-learning process. Teachers now-a-days use a variety of teaching methods where the learners are encouraged to work independently. Teachers use smarter teaching methods so that the concept is grasped by the students easily and efficiently. Classroom teaching environments have drastically changed, leading to changes in the study habits of children. To make the study habits effective, one must inculcate good study skills. Knowledge is one whole and whatever new things are learnt should be incorporated into the frame of previous knowledge so that it becomes part of student's personality and experience.

Hence students have to master certain study skills. Study skills are related to the classroom environment and one must be aware of what is happening in the class apart from the teaching exercises. To attain the best grasping of the knowledge, one should understand the activities before the class, during the class and one should be aware of what the class is going to be about, what are the main points covered in the last class and whether they have completed the assignments or homework given in the last class. The pondering of all these points will come in the “before the class” activities. The “During the class” activities will comprise of concentrating on the subject taught and taking notes on the main points. The “after the class” activities cover the reviewing of your own notes and thinking of what was taught in the class. It would be great that if you underline and highlight important ideas and new words in the notes written by you.

There are different types of study skills like planning, organisation, revision, memorisation etc. Let us continue with our opening example. If Rohan wants to attempt an examination, he will certainly plan for his examination for success. Hence study begins with planning, which is first and important step. It helps the student to understand the scope and limitations of the subject. For success in examinations, one has to think how vast the syllabus is and how it can be divided into parts. A thorough planning is required to divide the syllabus into parts; the division of the syllabus will be certainly on some basis – number of pages, topics, chapters or content. Certainly one has to plan and select the most suitable way. Imagine what would happen if you do not plan. It will surely lead to mismanagement and confusion, further leading to doing the wrong things at the wrong time!

The next step is the “Sequencing”, which denotes the order in which one has to study. The sequence will depend on the content and the subject of your study. Let us consider an example for this. In subjects like Mathematics, comprehension of the study matter is done first and then the practice of illustrative examples. The practice of various examples will make the study matter perfect. As you must know, “Practice makes a man perfect”. Hence sequencing is “comprehension of the study matter” → Practice of different examples → Practice of different examples. Another method of sequencing is first practicing and then understanding the study matter. As in the study of languages, first we practice to listen and read different articles and thereafter we are able to write a good article on our own. Surely we cannot write a good article all of a sudden!

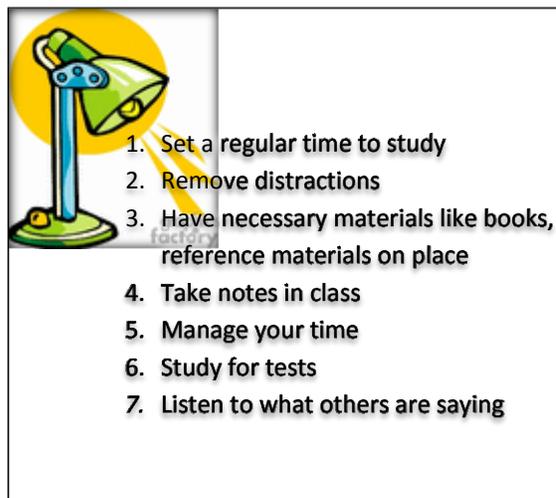
Be smart when you study; quality work is important rather than quantity, i.e. the number of hours you have devoted to studying. Be active participants of the class. Hence the next step is how much quality time you devote to your studies and not how many hours. One should be smart enough to plan time for self-studies. Self-studies include understanding subject matter, revision and also solving the related questions of subject matter. It is generally said that if you plan for 100% of your work, 80% of that is achieved. So it is advisable to plan for more so that 100% of the work is achieved.

Planning your studies will help you to manage and use the time efficiently. It also develops confidence, gives you proper direction and keeps you on the track of success. Hence proper study skills are approaches applied to learning. They are generally critical to success in schools and colleges, considered essential for acquiring good grades and useful for learning throughout one's life.

Good study skills can be described as learning how to become an effective learner and how to manage one's own learning. With the tips given in this picture, good study skills can be encouraged. Inculcating good study habits will take time, as it is not a one night job!

When good study skills are incorporated, children learn the concept, understand and concentrate on the concept and above all, retain the information for further use. To retain the information for further use is very important, as the information does not remain as information per se but becomes knowledge. Knowledge becomes an inseparable part of a human being.

Dear Learners, while inculcating the smart study skills, do not expect an EASY life but a BUSY life. All the best for getting the right study skills!



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