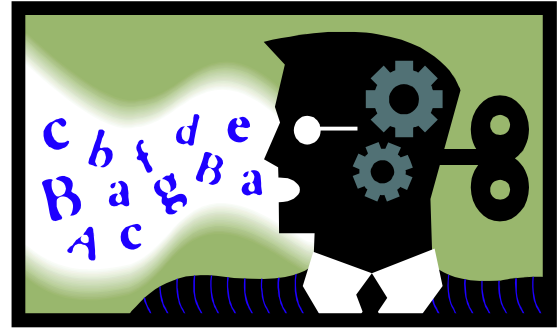


Learning Café Quick Study Tips

TACKLING NEW VOCABULARY

At the beginning of a new course, you may feel the textbook is written in a foreign language. The instructor seems to speak that language as well. Don't despair! It's the language that is particular to the individual area of study. You just need a plan of attack to conquer this new discipline specific language. It can be done.



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Plan Your Attack

1. Identify and count the new terms in your current chapter
 - Check the chapter introduction
 - Check the end of the chapter
 - Check the bold-faced words in the text
 - Check the margins of the text
2. Figure out how many new words you have to learn and divide that amount into the number of days you have. Schedule a time daily for vocabulary study.
3. Look up the definitions. A good textbook gives you the definitions directly in the text or in the glossary at the back of the book. If the text does not provide definitions, you may need to consult another source: your instructor or another expert in the field, another text (perhaps at a lower level), a dictionary or an encyclopedia.
4. If you don't understand the terms used in the definition, look them up. Be sure you can give the definition in your own words.
 - If you find that many of the terms used in the text have definitions you can't understand, you may lack the prerequisite knowledge for the course. You have two options: drop the course or get the prerequisite course's textbook and study it immediately.
 - If chapters are being discussed out of sequence, you may need to refer to an earlier chapter in order to understand key terms.

Start Learning and Memorizing!

- Notice the word: take it apart and put it back together. Do you detect any relationship between it and another word you know?

Example: anthropoid can be split into two parts, anthro + poid

I know that anthropology is the study of the origin and development of man. When I discover the definition of anthropoid is "resembling man, having apelike characteristics," I can associate the definition to my previous knowledge.

- If you learn best by seeing, draw a picture or diagram. For the example above, you might get a picture in your mind of a certain "apelike" movie star you know.
- Work with the definition until you understand it. If you're not sure, check your understanding with your instructor.
- Put the word and definition on opposite sides of a vocabulary card; or enter the word and definition in separate columns in a vocabulary section of your notebook; or develop a vocabulary study system with your computer. Do something physical with the words like playing a matching game.
- Fit it into a category. Organize words into logical groupings. Make note of how it fits with other terminology.
- Practice by rehearsing and testing.
- Use the word in speaking and writing.

*For more information on any of the suggestions given here, please visit the Learning Café, located in the library (CE1340) / 403-382-6952 / learningcafe@lethbridgecollege.ca
Or sign up for a Student Success Workshop!*