

Math Study Skills

Math is a unique subject. It involves symbols, formulas, specific procedures, textbooks that look different, and many unique words and terms. Consequently, it is important to use study skills that apply particularly well to math. Here are some you should use.

- You can't learn math just by reading and listening. Much of math learning involves actively doing. This means that you must **do all of your math homework and assignments**. This is essential to learning how to use formulas and procedures.
- Math is a sequential subject. What is taught on a given day is based upon what was taught before. Once you fall behind, it is very difficult to catch up. Cramming at the last minute will not help you. Be certain to **attend every class and keep up with your teacher**.
- Math is a difficult subject that becomes increasingly complex. You may have to **spend more study time** on this subject than on your other subjects.
- Don't try to memorize your way through math. There are simply too many formulas and procedures. Try to **master the key concepts**. This will reduce the amount of information you will need to remember.
- Once you learn a procedure for solving a problem, that same procedure can often be used to solve other problems. When presented with a new problem, try to **apply your past learning** to the new problem.
- Learn the vocabulary of math. Often, a word used in math has a different meaning than that same word when used outside of math. For example, *volume* in math refers to the amount of space within a solid figure. Outside of math, *volume* can refer to a book or to loudness. **Write new math words and terms and their math meanings** in a special place in your notebook.
- Math is a subject that makes many students very anxious. As simple as it sounds, **having confidence in yourself** can reduce your anxiety.

These math study tips can help you succeed in math. But don't be too proud to seek help when you realize that you need more than tips such as these and super effort to succeed.

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