

Study Strategies for French

- ❖ **Make flashcards for vocabulary.**
 - ♦ This can be done in several ways. Visual learners will find it helpful to create flashcards by putting a picture on one side and the French vocabulary word on the other side. Color-coding is also helpful.
 - ♦ There are several online flashcard generators that you can use to type in your own lists and practice on the computer, if you prefer to see things on a screen.
 - ♦ Put words you immediately recognize in a separate pile. The remaining cards are the ones you should focus on. Every so often, shuffle the easy ones back in and quiz yourself on the whole stack.
 - ♦ Bodily/kinesthetic/tactile learners often find flashcards a great way to study.

- ❖ **Tape a card or sheet of paper with verb endings to your mirror, computer monitor, or other obvious location.** This is great for visual learners!
 - ♦ Every time you notice your reminder, practice reciting the verb endings. When you can't remember the endings in class, close your eyes and picture the location.
 - ♦ Have a family member move the card around or hide cards in the house for you to find unexpectedly (under the toilet seat, behind the pantry door, on your pillow, etc.) to jog your memory.

- ❖ **Spend 10-20 minutes each night reviewing.**
 - ♦ It doesn't seem like much, but just a few minutes will help move the information from your short-term memory to your long-term memory.

- ❖ **Find a study partner or group.**
 - ♦ For interpersonal learners, this can make studying fun and productive.
 - ♦ Choose a topic or assignment to go over together and have someone explain the concept to the group. The best way to learn is by teaching others.

- ❖ **Recopy/condense notes.**
 - ♦ It's not second grade punishment! By copying something more than once, you help commit it to memory. You may have been taking notes in class while also listening to the teacher. This gives you time to focus on what it was you actually wrote down.
 - ♦ For bodily/kinesthetic/tactile learners and visual learners, this can be helpful.

- ❖ **Teach someone else what you've learned.**

- ♦ Your parents, siblings, kids you baby-sit, pets . . . teaching something to someone else is the best way to learn.
- ❖ **Review old material to keep it fresh in your memory.**
 - ♦ You can use any of these methods. Move that information from short-term to long-term memory.
- ❖ **Rent a movie, listen to music, or watch French TV online.**
 - ♦ This helps your listening comprehension and is enjoyable! You may not even realize you're learning. It will also help improve your pronunciation.
 - ♦ Visual, auditory and musical learners may benefit especially.
- ❖ **Ask for help as soon as you get behind.**
 - ♦ The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to catch up. It may only take a couple of minutes with your teacher to clear things up, and he/she would rather help you now than watch you struggle!
- ❖ **Study in small chunks (10-15 minutes).**
 - ♦ Don't tire yourself out. By studying in smaller chunks, the material won't seem as overwhelming.
- ❖ **Color-code your notes.**
 - ♦ By using different colors (blue for masculine words and green for feminine words, red for verbs, etc.) you can jog your memory.
 - ♦ Visual learners may especially want to do this.
- ❖ **Sing or chant the words.**
 - ♦ Use any style of music or tune you want.
 - ♦ Auditory and musical learners will especially benefit from this.
- ❖ **Use gestures with words.**
 - ♦ Make up different gestures for each word on your vocabulary list.
 - ♦ Use your fingers to draw accents in the air when you spell words aloud.
- ❖ **Ask for extra practice.**
 - ♦ Practice makes perfect! If you're not sure whether you fully understand a concept, you may want to do a few more exercises. There are lots of online grammar quizzes, or your teacher can photocopy you a few worksheets to make sure you're up to speed.
- ❖ **Don't be afraid to make mistakes!**
 - ♦ We all learn by trial and error. Use homework as an opportunity to find out what you don't know. Once you know where your weaknesses are, you can work with your teacher to find a way to get stronger.