

SUCCESS SKILLS

tips for improving your memory & taking standardized tests

TIPS FOR IMPROVING YOUR MEMORY

- {1} Keep notes, lists and journals to jog your memory.
- {2} Decide what is most important to remember by looking for main ideas.
- {3} Classify information into categories. Some categories may be:
 - a. Time – summer, sun, swimming, hot
 - b. Place – shopping center, stores, restaurants
 - c. Similarities – shoes, sandals, boots
 - d. Differences – mountain, lake
 - e. Wholes to parts – bedroom, bed, pillow
 - f. Scientific groups – Flowers, carnation, rose
- {4} Look for patterns. Try to make a word out of the first letters of a list of things you are trying to remember. You also could make a sentence out of the first letters of the words you need to remember.
- {5} Associate new things you learn with what you already know.
- {6} Use rhythm or make up a rhyme.
- {7} Visualize the information.
 - a. See the picture clearly and vividly.
 - b. Exaggerate and enlarge things.
 - c. See it in three dimensions.
 - d. Put yourself into the picture.
 - e. Imagine an action taking place.
- {8} Link the information together to give it meaning.
- {9} Use the information whenever you can. Repetition is the key to memory.

REVIEW ONLY

School
Datebooks



TIPS FOR TAKING STANDARDIZED TESTS

- {1} *Concentrate.* Do not talk or discuss the test.
- {2} *Listen carefully to the directions.* Ask questions if they are not clear.
- {3} *Pace yourself.* Keep your eye on the time, but do not worry too much about not finishing.
- {4} *Work through all of the questions in order.* If you do not think you know an answer to a problem, skip it and come back to it when you have finished the test.
- {5} *Read all of the possible answers* for each question before choosing an answer.
- {6} *Eliminate any answers that are clearly wrong,* and choose from the others. Words like always and never often signal that an answer is false.
- {7} *If questions are based on a reading passage,* read the questions first and then the passage. Then go back and try to answer the questions. Scan through the passage one last time to make sure the answers are correct.
- {8} *When you finish the test, go back through and check your answers for careless mistakes.* Change answers only if you are sure they are wrong or you have a very strong feeling they are wrong.
- {9} *Do not be afraid to guess at a question.* If you have a hunch you know the answer, you probably do!
- {10} *Use all of the time allotted* to check and recheck your test.

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