



Active Learning

Take the test below to test your active learning skills. Put a check by each method you currently use.

- Recite out loud.
- Make study cards.
- Write summaries of notes and information you've read.
- Read your classmates' lecture notes.
- Teach the material to someone else.
- Read quietly.
- Reread lecture notes or chapters in your text.
- Copy or type your lecture notes.
- Write in the margins of your text.
- Write possible test questions.
- Create charts to organize study material.

Active vs. Passive Learning

When you're **actively learning**, you are thinking about what you're reading and exploring new ways to understand it and transform it into information that you can more easily remember. Active learning takes more effort than passive learning.

Passive learning takes time but doesn't take the same amount of effort that active learning does.

Because it does take time, we can trick ourselves into thinking things like, "I studied! I don't know why I don't remember!" The passive learning methods listed in the test above are:

- Read quietly.
- Reread lecture notes or chapters in your text.
- Copy or type your lecture notes.
- Read your classmates' lecture notes.

If you put a check by any of these methods, try the methods below instead.

Instead of...

Reading quietly

→ → →

Do this...

Read and underline your text or take notes. Write in the margins of your text.

Rereading lecture notes or chapters in your text

→ → →

Recite important parts while you review your notes in your textbook chapters.

Copying or type your lecture notes

→ → →

Condense and review your notes. Make study sheets or flash cards.

Reading your classmates' lecture notes

→ → →

Compare notes and discuss them. Check with your Instructor to see if you missed anything.