

Flash Card Strategies

Flash cards are so efficient because our brains function through “pictures.” We dream in pictures, we have memories in pictures, we process what we read as pictures. So, you ought to create simple and strategic flash cards for your brain to “take pictures of.”

Write the following neatly and clearly on the front and back of index cards.

On the FRONT:

- Center: term to learn
- Top left: part of speech (or some other category)
- Top right: “+” if it is a positive term or “-” if it is a negative term
 - + terms express: more, good, increasing, light, large, start, together, high
 - – terms express: lack, bad, decreasing, dark, small, stop, apart, low
- Bottom left: simple illustration (optional)
- Bottom right: star for each time it is remembered correctly and quickly

On the BACK, depending on the type of information, you can list:

- 2-3 synonyms
- 2-3 bullet points with the main information (in “Caveman Talk,” ignoring grammar)
- An equation and the significance of the variables

FRONT:	BACK:
Adj. Benign  	Kind Good Gentle

The point is to get to the point! Keep the cards simple so that your brain can “remember its picture.”

Keep your stack of cards between 15-30 at a time.

Once every day, quiz yourself. If you know the information immediately and completely, write a star on the bottom right corner of that card. When a card has three stars, you have mastered it! Set that card to the side and replace it with another you need to master, or simply enjoy that your stack has become smaller and more focused on the difficult concepts.

Every week or so, check your mastery by reviewing the ones you set to the side.