

STUDY SKILLS 1



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A LEARNING SKILLS INVENTORY

► You probably have some good study skills already. Are you aware of which skills need improvement?

A. Think about your current skill levels. Check one box after each skill area. Be honest! Identifying your strengths and weaknesses is the first step toward becoming a better student.

1. Reading speed
2. Reading comprehension
3. Listening
4. Memory
5. Following directions
6. Time management
7. Textbook note-taking
8. Classroom note-taking
9. Class discussion participation
10. Relations with instructors
11. Basic library skills
12. Writing papers
13. Test preparation
14. Test taking

| EXCELLENT | GOOD | FAIR | POOR |
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B. Use information from your checklist to answer each question.

1. Name the study skills area that you now feel most confident about.

2. Name the study skills area in which you most need improvement.



C. On the back of this sheet, list your classes. Write the instructor's name after each class. How hard do you find each class? Rate the levels of difficulty from 1 (least difficult) to 5 (most difficult).

STUDY SKILLS VOCABULARY

- Certain ways of doing things make learning easier. These ways are called *learning methods* or *study skills*. Strong study skills can be a big help at school. In fact, they can make you a better learner at any time or place in your life.

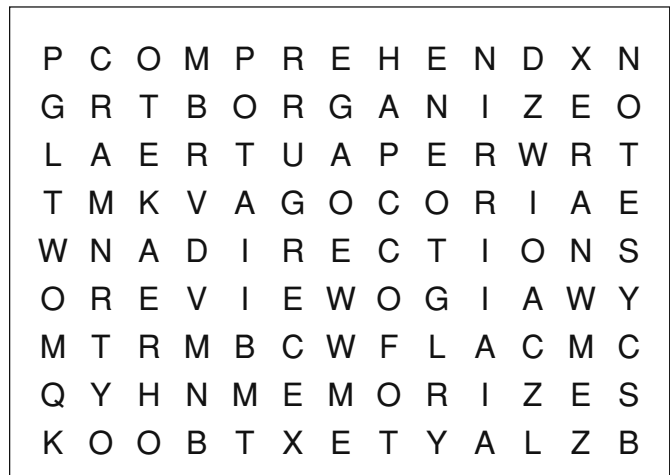


- A.** The 10 words below are important to learn. Write a letter to match each word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. ___ directions | a. to go back and look over material <i>after</i> an earlier reading |
| 2. ___ notes | b. to look over information <i>before</i> a more careful reading |
| 3. ___ organize | c. to study only the night before a test or at the last minute |
| 4. ___ preview | d. to fix in your mind or learn by heart |
| 5. ___ review | e. a book used to teach a school subject |
| 6. ___ memorize | f. to do something over and over again |
| 7. ___ practice | g. to fully understand something |
| 8. ___ comprehend | h. instructions on how to do something |
| 9. ___ textbook | i. to put things in order, according to a system |
| 10. ___ cram | j. something you write to help you remember or keep track |

- B.** Circle ten hidden words in the puzzle. They may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it in the puzzle.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ___ DIRECTIONS | ___ ORGANIZE |
| ___ PREVIEW | ___ REVIEW |
| ___ MEMORIZE | ___ PRACTICE |
| ___ COMPREHEND | ___ CRAM |
| ___ NOTES | ___ TEXTBOOK |



A GOOD STUDY ENVIRONMENT

Do you have a good place to study? The things that surround you when you learn make up your *study environment*. Where and how you set up a place to study can affect the quality of your learning.

A. Circle a letter to identify the best learning environment. Then list some features of the better environment that would aid learning.

- a. Jason is ready to study. He sits in a soft chair in the living room. The glow of the TV lights his history book. His sister is watching a science fiction movie. Jason puts on stereo headphones to block the TV noise. When it's time to answer questions, Jason looks around for a pen and paper.



- b. Lynn is ready to study. She carries a glass of water to her room. She closes her door and turns on the light over the table. She takes a dictionary, a pen, and some paper from a shelf. Today, Lynn will read a history chapter and answer questions. She checks her watch. It is 4:30 P.M., an hour before dinner.

FEATURES OF THE BETTER ENVIRONMENT: _____

B. Evaluate your usual study area. Write **yes** or **no** for each question.

1. ___ Do you have one or two places reserved just for studying?
2. ___ Is your study area where others will not pass through?
3. ___ Is your whole desk or table well lit?
4. ___ Can you avoid outside noise by closing the door?
5. ___ Do you usually study before you are tired?
6. ___ Are your study materials near the work area?
7. ___ Is your work area cool (but not cold)—between 65° and 70°?
8. ___ Do you sit upright when you study?

C. Review your answers to the questions in *Part B*. On the back of this sheet, list ways you could improve your own study environment.