

The Science of Learning Well... Together

Student Tip #5

A good way to check if we really understand something is to explain it to someone who hasn't learnt about it before or who hasn't studied it for a long time. We need to be able to identify what the most important points are and explain these very clearly. You also need to be able to answer their questions. These discussions can help you see what ideas are still not clear for you. You could do this activity with your online group, or you might want to do it with a parent, sibling, or grandparent!

Get to the Point!



STEP 1: On your own...

As you read chapters, review lessons, or complete tasks identify and list the **KEY IDEAS** - the ideas that you think are most important.

Become the expert: plan how you would explain these ideas to someone who hasn't heard of them or studied them before.



STEP 2: With your group...



In the group, take turns to share a key idea and an explanation.



Group members then ask questions, and you have to explain the key idea in a way that a beginner would understand.



Each group member repeats this process with their own key idea.



As a group discuss which topics/ key ideas are still unclear.



Together, work out some strategies for how you will make these ideas clear to everyone.

STEP 3: On your own...

List the topics/ key ideas shared by the group today.

Without referring to your notes, recall as much as you can about each topic/ key idea.

Refer back to your notes and add more detail to what you had written down.

Is there anything you are still unclear on?
How will you address this?