

# The Science of Learning Well... Together

Student Tip #10

Some ideas or concepts can be difficult to understand, particularly if they are vague, abstract or illusive. To help us grasp these ideas it can be useful to develop a few concrete examples - a concrete example is a real-world, material or physical example of the concept or idea: something that can be touched or sensed in some way. Finding examples that explain or illustrate concepts or ideas in different ways are effective to help us to develop a deeper understanding. This strategy invites you and your group to find different concrete examples of the same ideas or concepts.

## Make It Concrete



### STEP 1: On Your Own...

When working on a particular topic or subject, identify some key ideas or concepts that can be challenging to understand, for example Gravity.



Note these ideas down and try to think of a real-life example for each one, for example, an apple falling from a tree.



### STEP 3: On your own...



Identify key ideas or concepts that you still find challenging to understand.

Build up an image wall of multiple concrete examples of each of these ideas/ concepts/

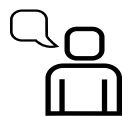
As you work through topics/ subjects, continue to identify opportunities where your understanding can be strengthened through the use of concrete examples.

Explain these complex concepts/ ideas to others in your family, using the concrete examples.

### STEP 2: With Your Group...



In the group, everyone share the key ideas that they have found, and describe their understanding of the idea/ concept.



Each person then shares their concrete (real-life) example of their idea/ concept and explain it. Examples work best if they fit the concept well so make sure you can clearly describe how your example illustrates the concept.



Other members of the group then provide different concrete examples of the same idea/ concept. Make sure they are a good fit! For example, another way to represent gravity might be the forces that help a child slide down a slippery dip.



As a group discuss the similarities and differences between the concrete examples for each idea/ concept.



Perhaps find images/ videos to represent each example (See Tip #9).