

Revision walkthroughs: The Leitner System

A Good flashcard...

- Has a question and answer.
- Only contains a small amount of information.
- Also includes a dual-coding prompt.

So how can we up our flashcard game?

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The Leitner system is a learning method that uses flashcards, boxes, and spaced practice to improve memorization.

All you need is 3 boxes or envelopes and your flashcards.

Box 1, also known as the “every day box”, is what you’ll be reviewing daily. All newly created cards automatically enter this box, together with any cards that were answered incorrectly from box 2. By constantly going back to box 1 and reviewing the flashcards within, you will eventually remember the most difficult facts and concepts that you could not retain within the first few tries.

Box 2 is where you’ll be promoting any flashcards you were able to answer correctly from box 1. As you were able to remember these flashcards, you no longer need to review them daily. Instead, review these cards every three days. Any cards you get wrong from box three should be demoted back into box 2.

The final flashcard box of the Leitner system is box 3. This is the box you’ll be opening least frequently, with reviewing taking place only once per week. This is done so that you don’t waste an unnecessary amount of time on using spaced repetition on already mastered concepts. Seeing box 3 fill up with mastered cards will give you a visual reminder of your progress. Any cards from this box that you forget, put back into box 2.

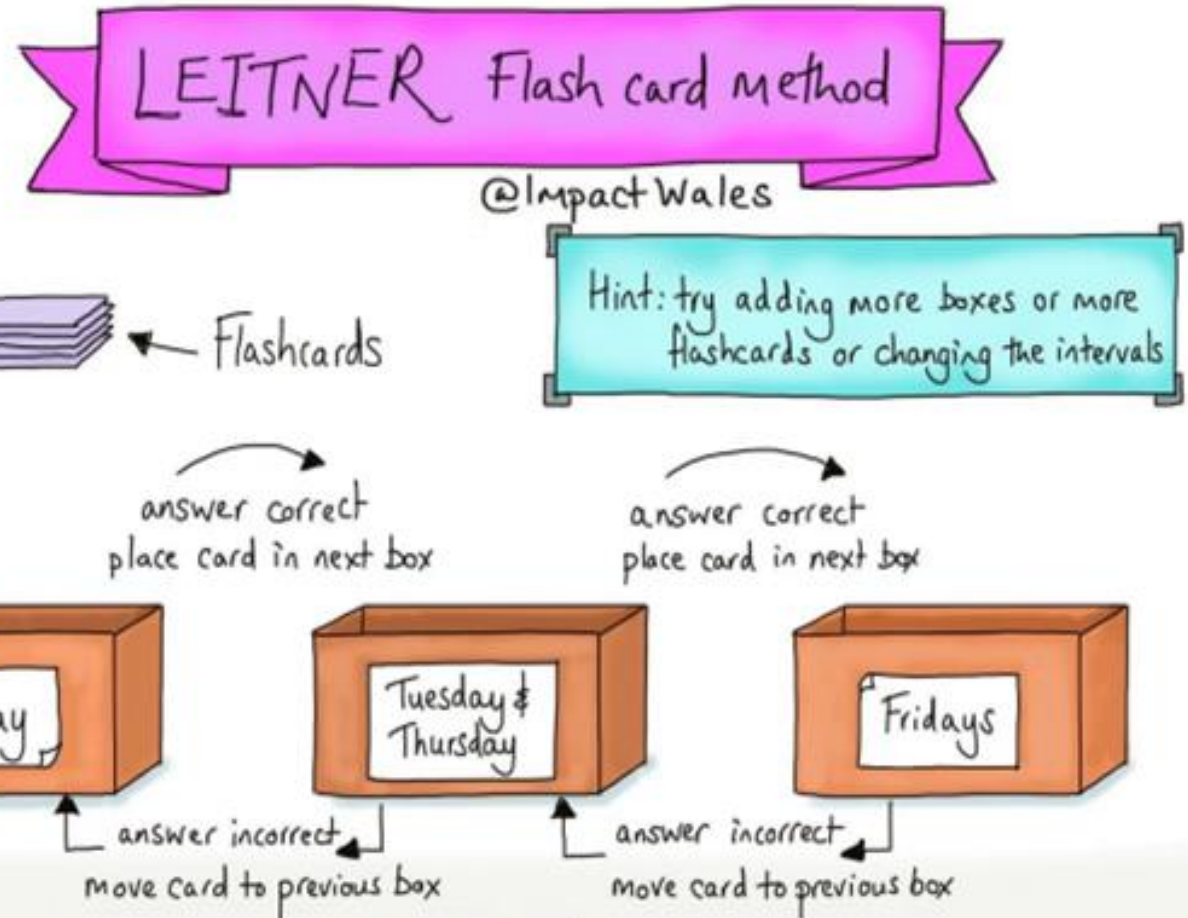
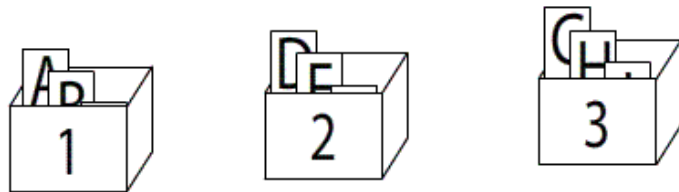


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So what might this look like in practice?

1. Watch the animation below.
2. One volunteer from the class will then re-explain the Leitner method back to the class using the diagram on the board.

Session 1



You will be creating 3 piles of flashcards, so you'll need 3 envelopes, 3 boxes or 3 paperclips, to keep each pile together.