

# Revision walkthroughs: Using flashcards

At the end of last year we did a tutor session on flashcard in preparation for your end of year assessments. Can you remember the top tips for using this strategy effectively?

Flashcards are a controversial revision strategy. They can be some of the **BEST** ways to revise and build your long term memory. But, if they are not used properly making flashcards can be the **WORST** uses of your time.

## Discuss:

Why might flashcards be an effective revision technique?

Why might flashcards be an ineffective revision technique?

When I used flashcards I found that...

# Where have Arthur's flashcards gone wrong?

- I am ready and motivated to revise.
- I have bought my revision guide.
  - I have bought some flashcards.
- I have copied ideas from my revision guide onto a set of flashcards, sometimes these are large paragraphs of text.
- I have put my flashcards in a drawer.  
Revision complete.

1. He has copied from the revision guide. If he doesn't summarise in his own words he isn't engaging his brain.
2. He writes big chunks of text. Flashcards should be simple.
3. He doesn't use his flashcards to test himself. Testing yourself is the best way of building long term memory.



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**1. Use your notes or your textbook to identify key concepts, facts and key terms**



**2. On one side of the flashcard, write the concept. It works best if this is turned into a question.**



**3. On the other side of the card, write down the answer or definition.**



**4. Once you have a full set for a topic. Test yourself, making sure you say the answers aloud.**



**5. For any questions that you found trickier, return to your notes or ask your teacher to clarify.**