

Madame Lepore's Foreign Language Study Tips



Tip #1 – When you begin a chapter....

From the very beginning, make flash cards as you go along for new vocabulary. Just 5 minutes an evening devoted to flash cards can make a huge difference! Don't wait until just before the test; it will be too late and take up too much time. Building a library of flash cards will be extremely valuable at the end of the semester when you might be tested on hundreds of words. You'll have your flash cards all ready!

NEAT TRICK: In languages where nouns have genders...

- ☞ use pink cards for feminine nouns
- ☞ use blue cards for masculine nouns.

If you're stuck on a test, you'll probably remember whether the noun was on a pink or blue card!

- ☞ Yellow cards: miscellaneous (adverbs, adjectives, etc.)
- ☞ Green cards: cultural information
- ☞ White cards: verbs

How to use flash cards:

It's fine to look at one side and think of the answer on the other, then check. BUT you must eventually test yourself ON PAPER. Example: To test yourself on vocabulary, put appropriate flash cards with English (or your native language) facing up. Look only at that side, writing down what you think the equivalent is in the target language. Number your paper and put your flash cards in a pile, keeping them in the same order that you looked at them. After you've gone through the whole pile, THEN turn the flash cards over and check your work carefully. For each one you missed, even if it's just an accent, put a star in the upper left corner of the front of the flash card. Separate those into a pile and study/test yourself on them until you get 100% accuracy. You'll see great results!

Hate flash cards? Take a sheet of paper and divide it into two columns, with the list of the vocabulary words in English on the left side and in the target language on the far right. Fold over the words in the target language so that you can't see them until you're ready to verify your answer. Do what is comfortable and works best for you. But do something to test yourself on vocabulary!