

German Revision Techniques

Vocabulary



Revise vocabulary list regularly or your memory of the words will gradually fade. Make sure you revise regularly during Study Leave, or study leave will simply be Forgetting Leave. Always begin each revision session by going over everything you have already revised. Use stories or images to link the German to the English meaning. The dafter the story the better. Identify words that cause you problems each time you test yourself and make a personal revision list just of these words.

100 most common words in German. These words make up 50% of everything you will see and hear. If you know these words you will already be able to understand half of everything in the exam. Again, revise the list regularly or your memory of the words will gradually fade. Use the same techniques for other vocab. Again, identify words that cause you problems each time you test yourself and make a personal revision list just of these words.

Work smarter not harder.

Start with the end in mind. Decide what it is you will achieve from your revision session. Write it on a piece of paper or card and put it where you can see it. This will help you to know that you have achieved what you set out to achieve.

See the big picture. Look over your text book and your exercise books. Make sure you have everything you need nearby.

Plan the time. Work out a manageable time slot for the revision session, then break it down into chunks of no more than twenty minutes. Allow yourself short breaks between each chunk of revision.

Get the mood right. Revise where it is quiet. Work well away from distractions such as TV, computer games, brothers and sisters. Quiet, gentle-paced classical or chill-out music without vocals help the brain learn more effectively. Save your favourite music as a reward for when you have achieved what you set out to.

Start! The hardest bit of revision you do is the first bit. Once you know what you want to achieve from the revision session, have planned your time and sorted out the necessary resources ...start!

Chunk it down. Do a bit at a time. After each chunk, review what you have achieved and take a short break. Before you start the next bit briefly run through what you have already done, and what you plan to do next.

Draft and re-draft your notes in a way that helps you learn. Use different colours of pens or paper or make a mind-map or poster. Put copies of the poster where you will see it frequently. The exposure will help you learn it when you're not even trying.

Test yourself. At the end of each revision session test yourself to see what you can recall. Regularly test yourself on everything you have done since your first revision session.

Rehearse. Your oral exam will be more successful as a result of rehearsing your presentation and rehearsing extended answers on all the possible topics.

Reward yourself, when you've done what you planned. Play your favourite music, sit in the sun for ten minutes...