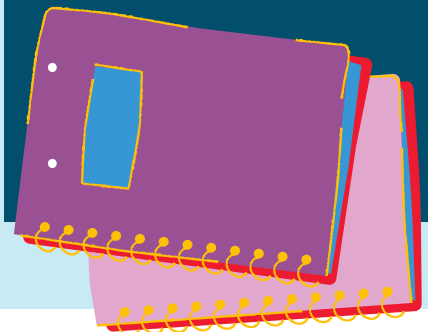


# Flashcard tips to help you study

## Why should I use flashcards to study?

**Flashcards** are small cards with information written on each side to help you associate words with definitions and/or examples, to help you remember concepts and meanings in any given subject. Flashcards are useful study tools because they promote **retrieval practice**, which helps you to overcome **the forgetting curve** throughout a class or a study period.

Flashcards can be physical or digital, and are easy to make. We've compiled some flashcard tips and tools to help you get started!

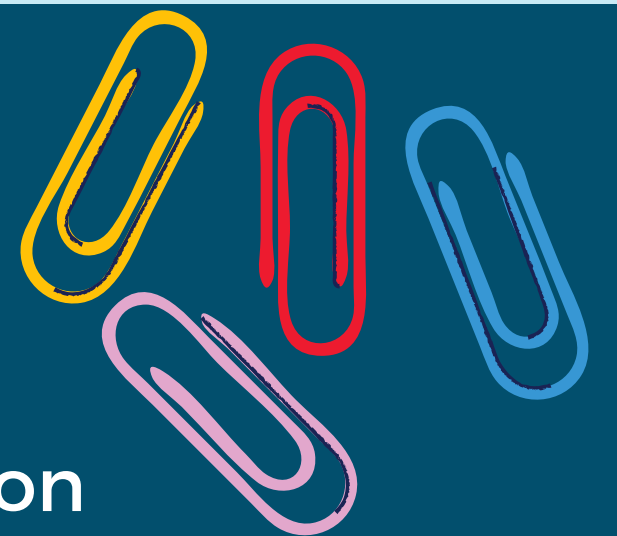


### Tips for making flashcards

- Try making your flashcards immediately after the lecture you want to remember. This helps keep the facts fresh since there is a decline in memory over time.
- Try making both physical and digital flashcards to see which method you prefer; everybody learns differently so it's important to know what works for you!
- Try writing your flashcards in as many ways as possible, e.g., questions paired with answers, key words paired with definitions, events paired with dates, etc.

### Tips for using flashcards

- Start studying your flashcards as early as possible to reduce stress and ensure a thorough memorization
- Flashcards work well for scientific classes where memorization plays a big role in learning terms and concepts, but they can also be useful in all sorts of subjects, like art history, literature, and languages, for example.
- Having digital flashcards makes it easy to bring them with you wherever you go! Try reviewing on the bus or at the park to change things up!



## Online platforms for making flashcards

anki®



Brainscape



Excel



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 International License. Teaching and Learning Services (2021), McGill University.



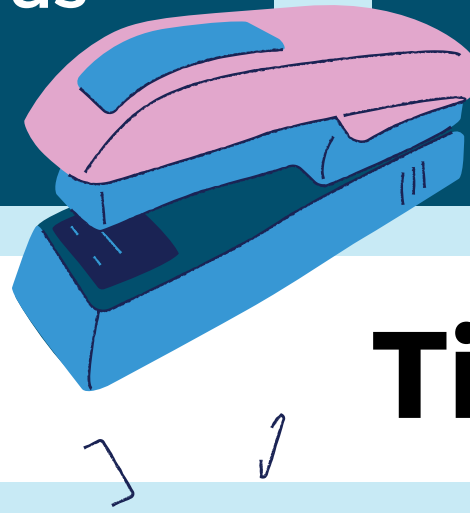
How to use

# anki®

to make flashcards

## What is Anki?

Anki is a flashcard app that uses an algorithm called SuperMemo 2 (SM-2), which is a research-based learning method relating to the **forgetting curve**. It helps you remind yourself of information right before you are said to forget it according to basic memory function. Anki shows you cards based on a **fixed-time interval**, increasing the interval as you progress.



## What is it good for?

- Long-term memorization
- Cumulative exams
- Classes that span one year
- Material that should be remembered far into the future (e.g. for professional degrees)



## Where do I get it?

Anki is currently free to download on Mac and Windows. AnkiDroid is a free app version of Anki available to download on Android phones. If you are looking to use Anki on an iPhone or another Apple device which is not a computer, the app can be purchased in the App Store, but is not currently available for free.



## Tips for using Anki

- Try not to use Anki for tests that are approaching soon because Anki is designed to help you learn cards over long time periods. If your test is in only a few days, you might not have enough time to use Anki to memorize your cards.
- Pay attention to your timeline and the amount of cards you need to learn; the set number of “new” cards per day is 20, but you can increase this if you need to.
- Anki has a lot of add-ons which can customize your study and help you memorize more complex concepts.

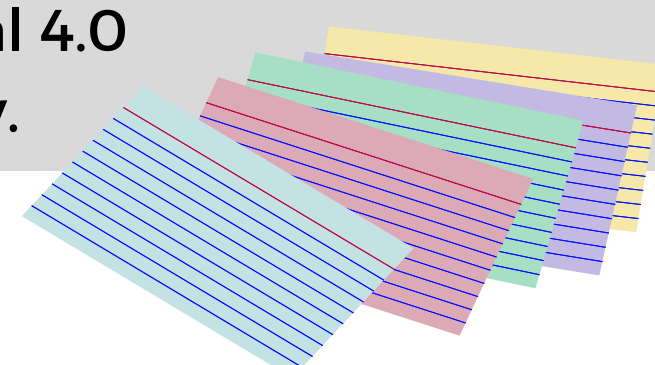


This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 International License. Teaching and Learning Services (2021), McGill University.



McGill

Teaching and  
Learning Services



How to use



# Brainscape

to make flashcards

## What is Brainscape?

Brainscape is a flashcard app that uses a self-assess algorithm in which you rate your own knowledge of each card (on a scale of one to five) and the app will adjust the time interval of each card accordingly. Brainscape allows you to organize your studying by decks, add images and sounds, and even collaborate with other editors. You can also browse decks from other students and track your studying progress.

## What is it good for?

- Group studying
- Spaced repetition
- Short-term and long-term memorization



## Where do I get it?

Brainscape is currently available for free in the App Store and on Google Play. Brainscape can also be used on your computer in the web browser. Once you create an account, you can sync between your devices and easily share decks with others. If you are interested in having more features, you can sign up for a pro account at an additional expense (this will apply to web and mobile).



## Tips for using Brainscape

- There is no computer app for Brainscape as of now, so you need an internet connection to use the website.
- The Brainscape app is very user friendly and can be used for on the go studying, because you can download decks and study offline, and then sync once you get internet so that if you continue on your computer, the algorithm will continue.
- Brainscape can be used to study for an exam that is just around the corner because it allows you to make as many cards as you like, and review them all at once within one or two days

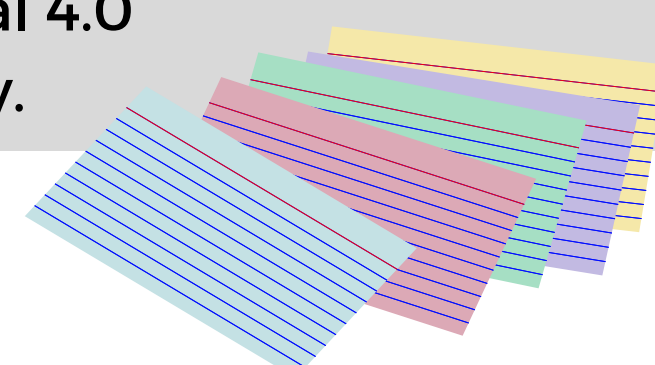


This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 International License. Teaching and Learning Services (2021), McGill University.



McGill

Teaching and  
Learning Services



How to use



# Excel

## to make flashcards

### What is Excel?

Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet software which serves as a basic method for organizing concepts and definitions, and can be used for a variety of different study methods at any interval you like. Though Excel isn't made specifically for flashcard making, it has been used as the framework for many flashcard apps available today. Excel is simple and thus versatile, which allows you lots of creative freedom when creating your flashcards.

### What is it good for?

- Long or short-term memorization
- Infinite number of flash cards can be created
- Collaboration
- Organizational tool for creating physical flashcards



### Where do I get it?

Microsoft Excel is part of the Microsoft 365 package which is available for free to all McGill students. It can be downloaded on your computer and can also be downloaded as an app for apple or android mobile devices.



### Tips for using Excel

- Have a fill-color legend that describes some kind of code to yourself on how much more reviewing you need for each "card" (e.g., red = do not know at all, yellow = needs more review, blue = review one more time, green = know perfectly)
- You can print your Excel sheet if studying a physical copy is helpful for you.
- Excel has a wide range of features that could enhance your studying, be sure to familiarize yourself with everything.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 International License. Teaching and Learning Services (2021), McGill University.



Teaching and Learning Services

