

How to Get Good Grades

This is easier than you think! You do have to work at it though. It doesn't matter what your normal grades are (unless you're already an A student) you can improve through these simple steps.

Steps

1. Remember that only part of school is about the material they are introducing to you. The rest is about learning how to learn!
2. Watch your teachers closely to learn how they teach. Any teacher out there has a routine they follow. Teachers are organized - learn how each one is organized.
3. Once you have determined how your teachers teach, use the same method to learn the information. If they write on the blackboard, take notes; if they lecture, listen hard or record the lecture to listen to multiple times. I know this sounds simple, but many will find it hard to stay focused for an entire class period. Here is where the hard work comes in - staying focused.
4. It is often stated that different people learn different ways - some are note takers, some are homework doers. Don't buy in to this - it is nothing more than a crutch. You can and do learn from every method of input. Have you ever noticed how some students don't seem to work at all until test time when they get A's and B's? these are the students who have learned to learn from all forms of teaching. You can do this too!
5. The final step is regurgitation. I know teachers hate to hear that, but truth is truth and cannot be changed: teachers want you to give them back what they gave you. So give it to them! By now you have learned how the teacher is giving you the information and you have had plenty of time to digest it. Give it back to the teacher.

Tips

- When taking tests, you have to relax. Easier said than done? Remember - you have all of the answers in your head already! The only challenge is getting them out!
- Your first instinct is nearly always correct. Don't go back and change answers. If you are really not sure, skip it and come back later.
- Take your time! A 120 question test you are given 1 hour for allows you 30 seconds per question. 30 seconds is forever (in 30 seconds, you can make a bathroom run, grab a drink and snack and still make it back to the couch before the next commercial starts)! Many of the questions will take far less than 30 seconds, so apply the balance to a tougher question.
- If you have any questions, don't be afraid to ask the teacher! You have the right to learn.

Warnings

- Every so often a teacher will ask you to analyze a situation or result. These are the best teachers out there, as they are asking you to think logically. Don't fret, you already know how to analyze: that's how you figured out how your teachers teach!
- These steps are worthless when it comes to math. Math you just have to learn by any means necessary. Get a tutor, ask the smart kids for help, ask the teacher for help.

Things You'll Need

- Your books and supplies
- To stay awake!
- To stay focused

How to Improve Grades in a Short Period of Time

With a little effort on your part, you can see your grades improve in a very short time. They can go from a F, or D, or even a C to a B and depending on how well you follow the following steps, you might even get an A. These simple rules and tips will help to make that improvement.

Steps

1. Think about the subject that you are having trouble with. Is it math? English? Science? Social Studies? Foreign languages? Art? Music? Drama? After you have picked the subject or subjects that need improvement, write it down on a piece of paper.
2. Think about the problem you have in that class. In English, do you have a hard time remembering the difference between a verb and a noun? In Science, do you forget how to find wavelength? In Social Studies, do you keep confusing African lakes and rivers with Asian lakes and rivers? On the piece of paper, write down the main subject..then the problems you are having with it.
3. For each problem you are experiencing, check over your schedule and find at least 30 minutes of free time for EACH problem. Verbs (30 minutes 3:30-4:00), poetry (30 minutes, between 5:00-5:30),and so on.
4. Find the notes from class on the particular subject. If you never took notes, then ask another student to borrow his or hers. If your class does not take notes, use a book in the class and find the topic you are having difficulty with. Read the notes then write a summary of what you have just learned. It may take a few tries, but you'll get it.
5. If your problem is not really text based, like maps, find a book about them, or worksheets from your class, and redo them, asking your teacher for help whenever

you get stuck. Review them once more, and write something you remember about them, like..Madagascar is an island off South Africa.

6. Look over your notes or summary once that night, and once in the morning before you go to that class, to make sure you understand the concept. If you don't, remember, you can ask for help!
7. The next time you're in class, no matter how much you want to resist, take notes!! Neat, detailed notes. Reread them at home and write another summary every time you learn something new, maybe give a few examples. Reread all your notes and examples at least once before going to that class. In a few weeks, your grade should improve drastically!
8. Find out if the course offers extra credit. If so, do as much as possible.
9. Talk to your teacher. Tell him or her that you want to do better in the class and ask what you can do. Almost always, a teacher is happy to help, and will be more positively disposed toward you at grading time.

Tips

- Do not put off taking notes or summarizing until the last minute.
- Research shows that studying for 10-30 minutes every day is more effective than cramming 5 hours before a test.
- Make sure you're neat. Rewrite your notes later.
- Keep an organized binder or notebook.
- Never forget to make up work you've missed.
- Keep a positive attitude. Just think, a few more weeks, months, etc, until this class is over completely!
- If the teacher dislikes you be sure to send them gifts for holidays.

Warnings

- Do not cheat!

Things You'll Need

- A pencil, black pen, red pen, blue pen, or any color you like.
- A binder or notebook. Keep it neat.
- Possibly index cards for your summaries!
- A positive attitude!
- Clean, quiet workplace

How to Get Better Grades This Year Than You Did Last Year

If you want this to be your best academic year yet, you should try and learn from your past mistakes.

Steps

1. Re-read and think about past work. What were you good at? What weren't you good at? What can be improved? If you're stuck, or don't know why you got a bad mark, ask your teacher for help.
2. If you have access to grading criteria (i.e. those lists that say "An A grade answer will have done X, Y and Z"), look them up. Look at the difference between the grade you got and the grade that is above yours. How can you achieve the criteria in the next grade?
3. If you have the opportunity to pick topics, pick them wisely! Think about what you are good at and, most importantly, what kind of subjects you enjoy. If you have never studied an optional subject before but you think it looks interesting, ask the teacher who teaches it what kind of skills are required and what kind of subjects it is similar to.
4. Collect some revision books over the summer holidays and start reading through them. This is particularly important if you are studying a topic you have never studied before. By doing this, you will get some background knowledge on the subject, which will make lessons easier for you during term time. You can just read the books or take notes as you go along- it's up to you.
5. Make sure you have all your pencils, pens and the like together for the start of the next school term in order to get the best start. Also, make sure your study area at home is tidy and organised.
6. Let parents and friends know that you are trying to improve your grades. They can offer you extra help.
7. Think about your note taking technique. How good is it? Does it need improving? How could you improve it? You could practice taking notes on the lyrics of a song or some script from part of a film if you need some practice at home. This step is particularly important if your course has lectures.
8. About once a month, take the time to compare your progress this year to your progress last year. If you are still going at the same pace, it's time to try something different.

Tips

- Looking after your body is important if you want a healthy mind. Eat a good diet and get as much sleep as you need.
- Grading criterias can be found on most university, college or school websites. If you have taken external examinations, you can also find grading criterias on the exam boards website.

- If your course involves assessment of handwritten work, you may want to think about improving your handwriting if it isn't good. Answers that can't be read get few or no marks, regardless of how excellent the content is!

Warnings

- Although some people find that working in front of the TV actually allows them to learn more, the majority find it to be a distraction. If you studied a lot in front of the TV last year, turn it off this year!
- Computers and the Internet can be a huge distraction when it comes to studying. If you don't need it, turn it off.
- Don't panic if one particular method of study doesn't seem to work for you. Everybody is different. Some people can absorb lots of knowledge just by reading, whilst others learn better by doing mock exams. It's all a matter of discovering what works for you.
- Easier said than done but avoid stressing out. Stress often has an adverse effect on your grades and will do your health no good either. If you are feeling the pressure, talk to a friend about it.