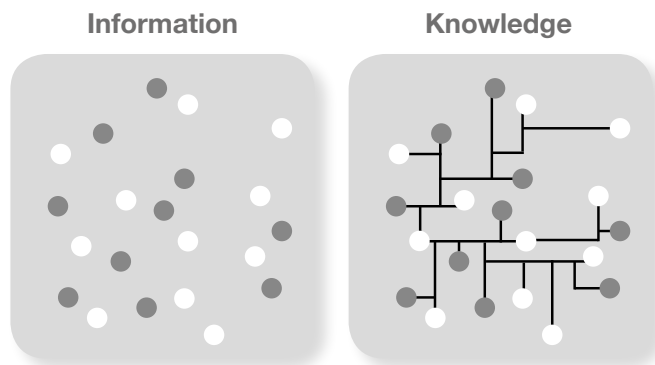


## 27. Practice Activity: Graphic Organisers

There is a difference between information and knowledge.



Information, on the left, is a loose collection of facts, with no connections between them, no overall understanding, so there is very little we can do with it. Information won't help you pass an exam or master a skill. On the right, you can see that knowledge is connected information. The job of any learner is to turn information into knowledge.

So how do we build these connections to turn information into knowledge? One way is by reorganising pieces of information.

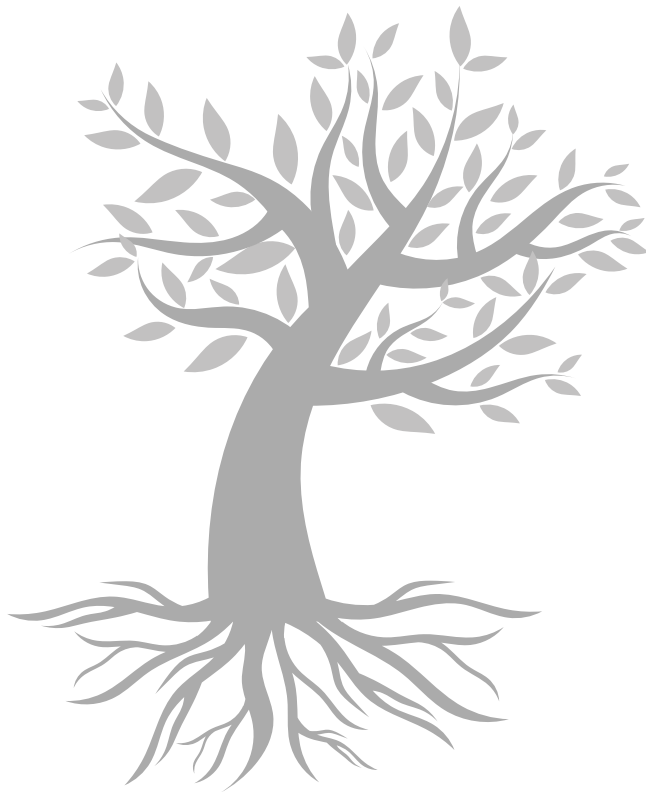
Graphic organisers can help you do this. Some are very simple:

- » Make a mind-map of the information.
- » Make a comparison table and pull out similarities and differences between two studies, methods, people, characters or historical events.
- » Make a flow chart to summarise a process or series of events.
- » Make a graph to represent the data.

Notice the focus on action here – each of our suggestions begins with 'make'. That's you being active, engaging with information and reorganising it so it becomes knowledge.

Alternatively you can use complex graphic organisers. They usually take the form of a metaphor, where you turn something into something else.

For example, summarise everything you know about a topic using the metaphor of a tree:



- » What key information forms the trunk?
- » What underlying information makes the roots?
- » What are the important branches?
- » What subsections of information become the twigs and leaves?

If this metaphor works for you, try the following:

- » A castle with separate turrets and a strong foundation.
- » A stream growing into a river and then a lake.
- » A village with a central square and streets around it.

### **Final Thoughts**

By recasting and reorganising information, you're building strong neural connections in your brain, and really mastering the content of your subject.

But remember, mastering content is only the first step! The minute you feel confident, you must move on to skills practice and feedback. Check the Revision Questionnaire on page 66 to see what activities you should be completing next.