**About Anki**

Anki is a program which makes remembering things easy. Because it's a lot more efficient than traditional study methods, you can either greatly decrease your time spent studying, or greatly increase the amount you learn.

Anyone who needs to remember things in their daily life can benefit from Anki. Since it is content-agnostic and supports images, audio, videos and scientific markup (via LaTeX), the possibilities are endless.  
For example:

* Learning a language
* Studying for medical and law exams
* Memorizing people's names and faces
* Brushing up on geography
* Mastering long poems
* Even practicing guitar chords!

**Features**

Synchronization  
Use the free AnkiWeb synchronization service to keep your cards in sync across multiple devices.

Flexibility  
From card layout to review timing, Anki has a wealth of options for you to customize.

Media-Rich  
Embed audio clips, images, videos and scientific markup on your cards, with precise control over how it's shown.

Optimized  
Anki will handle decks of 100,000+ cards with no problems.

Fully Extensible  
There are a large number of add-ons available.

Open Source  
Because the code and storage format is open, your important data is safe.

"The single biggest change that Anki brings about is that it means memory is no longer a haphazard event, to be left to chance. Rather, it guarantees I will remember something, with minimal effort. That is, *Anki makes memory a choice*."

[Michael A. Nielsen, "Augmenting Long-term Memory"](http://augmentingcognition.com/ltm.html)

"No other application [...] comes remotely close to Anki in terms of the number and power of features, flexibility in study, or implementation of spaced repetition."

[K. M. Lawson, "Anki All the Way"](http://foolsworkshop.com/reviews/index.html%3Fp=124.html)

"I've been using Anki for two years now, and I just wanted to thank you personally for contributing to the single most obvious improvement in my quality of life. I'm not being hyperbolic: consistent use of Anki has opened more doors for me intellectually than I could have imagined two years ago. And being a poor student, I'll be forever grateful that you've provided this software open-source and free of charge."

Keldin, via email

### Why Anki?

While there is no denying the huge impact SuperMemo has had on the field, it is not without its problems. The program is often criticized for being buggy and difficult to navigate. It only runs on Windows computers. It’s proprietary software, meaning end-users can’t extend it or access the raw data. And while very old versions are made available for free, they are quite limited for modern use.

Anki addresses these issues. There are free clients for Anki available on many platforms, so struggling students and teachers with budgetary constraints are not left out. It’s open source, with an already flourishing library of add-ons contributed by end-users. It’s multi-platform, running on Windows, Mac OSX, Linux/FreeBSD, and some mobile devices. And it’s considerably easier to use than SuperMemo.

Anki’s spaced repetition system is based on an older version of the SuperMemo algorithm called [SM-2](https://apps.ankiweb.net/docs/manual.html#what-algorithm).

### Learning

When learning new cards, or when relearning cards that you have forgotten, Anki will show you the cards one or more times to help you memorize them. Each time is called a learning step. By default there are two steps: 1 minute and 10 minutes. You can change the number of steps and the delays between them in the [deck options](https://apps.ankiweb.net/docs/manual.html#deckoptions).

There are three rating buttons when learning:

**Again** moves the card back to the first step.

**Good** moves the card to the next step. If the card was on the final step, the card is converted into a review card (it graduates). By default, once the card has reached the end of the learning steps, the card will be shown again the next day, then at increasingly long delays (see the next section).

**Easy** immediately converts the card into a review card, even if there were steps remaining. By default, the card will be shown again 4 days later, and then at increasingly long delays. The easy button will not be shown if you are in relearning mode and it would give the same interval as “good.”

When cards are seen for the first time, they start at step one. This means answering **Good** on a card for the first time will show it one more time in 10 minutes, and the initial 1 minute step will be skipped. If you push Again, though, the card will come back in 1 minute.

You can use the 1, 2 and 3 keys on your keyboard to select a particular button, where 1 is **Again**. Pressing the spacebar will select **Good**.

If there are no other cards to show you, Anki will show learning cards again even if their delay has not elapsed completely. If you’d prefer to wait the full learning delay, you can change this behaviour in the [preferences](https://apps.ankiweb.net/docs/manual.html#preferences).

### Statistics

The statistics window is accessed by clicking on the graphs icon in the top right of the main window, or by pressing Shift+S. The statistics window will show statistics from the currently selected deck and any subdecks. If you click on "collection" on the bottom left, statistics will be shown for your entire collection instead.

By default Anki will show you statistics for the previous month. You can change this to a year scope or deck life scope at the bottom. (The "today" section at the top is of course unaffected by this selection.)

Clicking on "Save Image" will save an image of the statistics to a file on your desktop to make it easy to share your statistics with others.