

# Flashcards

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## 1. What is “Flashcards”?

Flashcards is a study tool. You can create, import, export, edit, and study decks of flashcards with the program, and study those flashcards later.

It is a cross-platform, open source, free software. You can run it on Microsoft Windows, MacOS, and GNU/Linux operating systems. It is free to use, copy, distribute, and modify under its license terms.

Flashcards's purpose is to help you improve your long-time memory. It uses a spaced-repetition algorithm based on psychological research to show you what you need to study, and how often. It may be useful for you to improve your efficiency in time management, memory strength, and academical and/or professional success.

## 2. How to use the program

### 2.1. Decks view

When you open the program, you will see the Decks view.

This is the “**Decks**” view.

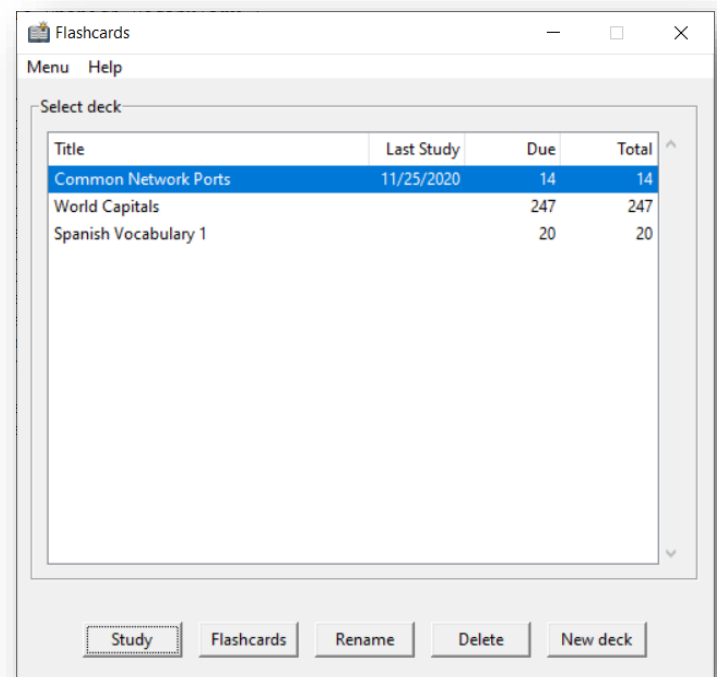
- At the top of the Decks view you can see all your decks in the **Decks Table**.
- In Decks Table you can see information about your decks, such as how many flashcards there are in any deck, how many of them are due, and when was the last time you studied them.
- Select a deck from the Decks Table first, then choose the relevant action for the selected deck by using the button below the table.
- You can **create new decks**, **rename**, or **delete** existing decks, and **start a study session** by clicking the relevant button.

#### 2.1.1. How to open the Decks view

- You can open the Decks view anytime by choosing “**Decks...**” from the menu.

#### 2.1.2. How to create a new deck

- Click on “**New Deck**” button to start by creating a new deck. Give your deck a descriptive title when it is prompted. Title cannot be empty or too long.



### 2.2.3. How to rename a deck

- Open “**Decks**” view, select the deck from the Decks Table first, then click on the “**Rename**” button.

### 2.2.4. How to delete a deck

- Open “**Decks**” view, select the deck from the Decks Table first, then click on the “**Delete**” button.

## 2.2. Flashcards view

When you click on “Flashcards” button in the Decks view or when you choose “**Flashcards**” from the menu, the Flashcards view opens.

This is the “**Flashcards**” view.

- At the top of the view you can see all your flashcards in this deck. There is a frame around the table which shows the title of the current deck.
- This table shows **all flashcards** (due and not due) in this deck.
- In the table there are two columns. On the left column questions (a.k.a. “*front side*”) are listed. On the right column you can see their answers (a.k.a. “*back side*”).
- Below the table there are two text entry boxes. These boxes are used both for editing current flashcards and adding new ones.

### 2.1.1. How to open the Flashcards view

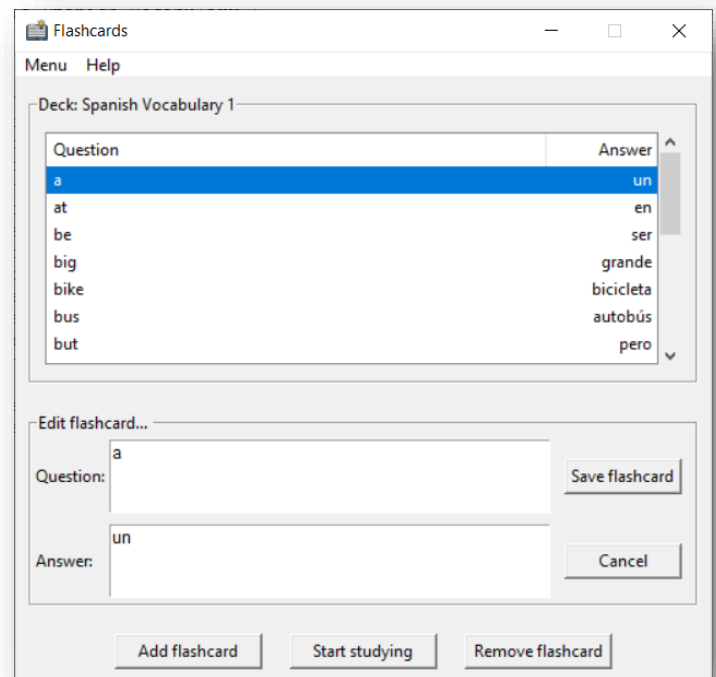
- You can open the Flashcards view anytime by choosing “**Flashcards ...**” from the menu.

### 2.2.2. How to add a new flashcard

- When you want to add a new flashcard, press “Add flashcard” button on the bottom first. Then type the question and answer for this flashcard in the text entry boxes.
  - **Tip:** When you finish typing the question, you can press CTRL + Tab on Windows to go to the next text entry box to type the answer.
- Always remember to click on “**Save flashcard**” button to save the flashcard when you complete editing question and answer texts. Otherwise they will be lost.
- Click “**Cancel**” to cancel adding process.

### 2.2.3. How to edit an existing flashcard

- When you want to edit an existing flashcard, select that flashcard from the table. Then use the text entry boxes to edit its question and/or answer.



- **Tip:** When you finish editing the question, you can press CTRL + Tab on Windows to go to the next text entry box to edit the answer.
- Always remember to click on **"Save flashcard"** button to save the flashcard when you are done with that flashcard. Otherwise, your changes will be lost.
- Click **"Cancel"** to cancel editing process.

#### 2.2.4. How to delete a flashcard

- Open "Flashcards" view, select the flashcard you want to delete from the table, click on the **"Delete"** button.

### 2.1. Study view

Study view is where you study your flashcards.

#### 2.1.1. How to open Study view

- You can open Study view via Decks view or Flashcards view.
  - To open the Study view from Decks view, select the deck you want to study first from the table in the Decks view, then click on the **"Study"** button below.
  - To open the Study view from Flashcards view, click on **"Start studying"** button.

#### 2.2.2. How to study

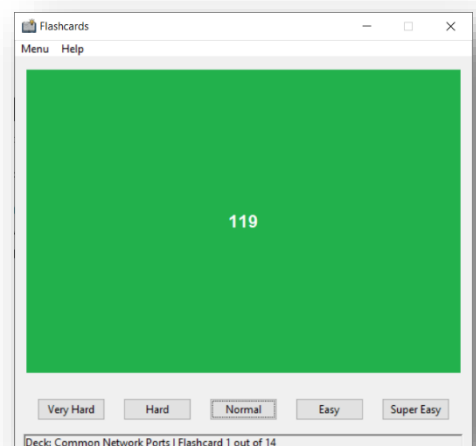
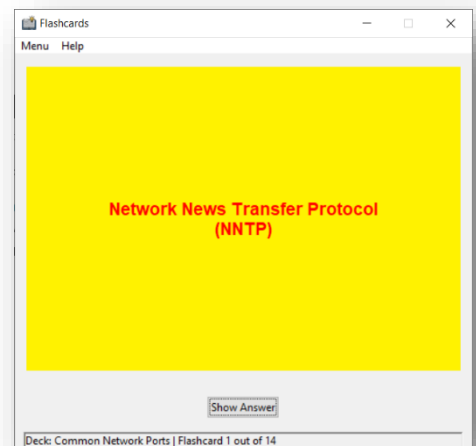
- When you start the study session, the program will show you the flashcards of the open deck in a randomized order.

#### Questions

- You will see the questions (a.k.a. "front side") of the flashcards first. Questions are displayed on a **yellow** background with **red** text color.
- Read the question and try to remember its answer.

#### Answers

- When you are done trying to remember the answer with success or failure, it does not matter, click on the **"Show answer"** button. It shows the answer side (a.k.a. "back side") of the flashcard.
- The answer is displayed on a **green** background and a **white** text color.
- Read the answer and think about the question and answer. Try to memorize this flashcard's question and answer. Spend at least a few seconds on this. Try to recall the question, and read the answer again, aloud if possible.
- Now you can **grade the question's difficulty level** by clicking the buttons below. For example, if remembering the answer was too easy for you, choose **"Super easy"**, if it was too hard, choose **"Very hard"**.
- Once you chose an option, the next flashcard's question will be displayed **automatically**. If this was the last



flashcard in your deck, the program will tell you that your study session for this deck is complete.

- The program will **automatically calculate** the next due dates of every flashcard based on your responses and your repetition history by using a **spaced-repetition algorithm** based on **psychological research**. When you open this deck again tomorrow, **only due flashcards** will be displayed to you.
- If you start a study session when there is no due flashcard in that deck, the program will ask you whether you want to go over **all the flashcards**. The program allows you to study the deck **as much as you want**, even when there are not any due flashcards.
- **Remember**, you should frequently open Flashcards program to not miss the due dates. Running the program often, and timely studying due flashcards are **your responsibilities**. Flashcards is a good study tool, but **only useful if you regularly use it**.

## 3. Features

### 3.1. Spaced-repetition

Flashcards is built with a **spaced-repetition algorithm**.

#### 3.1.1. What is spaced repetition?

*"Spaced repetition is an evidence-based learning technique that is usually performed with flashcards. Newly introduced and more difficult flashcards are shown more frequently, while older and less difficult flashcards are shown less frequently in order to exploit the psychological spacing effect. The use of spaced repetition has been proven to increase rate of learning.[1]"* from [Wikipedia](#)

#### 3.1.2. What it means for you in practice when using Flashcards

When you grade a flashcard's difficulty for you, the algorithm calculates next due date of that flashcard based on your past responses and on how many times you studied that flashcard before.

Due flashcards are calculated and displayed to you by the program **automatically**, based on the spaced-repetition algorithm. You will not need to do anything to arrange or manage the due flashcards. The program takes care of it.

This helps you mainly in two ways:

- 1) **Long-time memory**: Unfortunately, most of us forget what we learn if we do not go back and review them. To remember them for a long time we should do these reviews for more than once, and with increasing intervals. However, it is not easy to keep track of what to remember, and how often we should review them. This is where Flashcards comes into play.
- 2) **Time efficiency**: You will not spend your precious time for the flashcards you already know well. Instead, you focus on the ones that you need to improve your memory skills for.

### 3.2. Importing Data

#### 3.2.1. Why it is useful

You can import flashcards to the program from **external sources**. All you need is a CSV file. You can find a CSV file online or **you can easily create it yourself too!**

### 3.2.2. How to create a CSV file

Just put the data into two columns in a spreadsheet software (such as [Libreoffice Calc](#) or Microsoft Excel) and export it as a CSV file. Questions should be listed on the left column, and answers should be listed on the right column. That is all it is needed. Flashcards can import the file.

#### *Special keywords:*

There are special keywords that Flashcards recognizes in an imported CSV file. They are **"decktitle"**, **"fileversion"**, and **"program"**. If a question only includes one of these three keywords, Flashcards recognizes it, and does not import it as a flashcard. You can use the **"decktitle"** keyword in a question row to set the title of the imported deck. Other two keywords may be used by the program internally.

Row	Explanation
<b>decktitle</b> , "Title of the deck"	Recognized as the title of the deck
<b>fileversion</b> , "Version number"	Recognized as the file version number
<b>program</b> , "Flashcards"	Recognized as the name of the program

### 3.2.3. How to import

- Click on "Import..." on the menu. Choose a CSV file from file system.

## 3.3. Exporting Data

### 3.3.1. Why it is useful, and when it is not

Exporting is for using the data in the program with other applications. Exporting only exports deck title, and all questions and answers of the flashcards in that deck. Other data, such as last study time, your grade responses to flashcards, how many times you studied them, etc. will not be exported.

Exporting should not be used for backup purposes. To make a backup, you should just back up (copy to other locations) **"Flashcards.db"** file, or the whole program folder.

### 3.3.2. How to export

- Select a deck in the Decks view or open a deck in Flashcards view or study view. Then click on "Export..." on the menu.

## 4. License

Flashcards is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation, either version 3 of the License, or (at your option) any later version. You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program. If not, see <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/>.

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