

Sample Vocabulary Notecards

(updated: 29 July 2019)

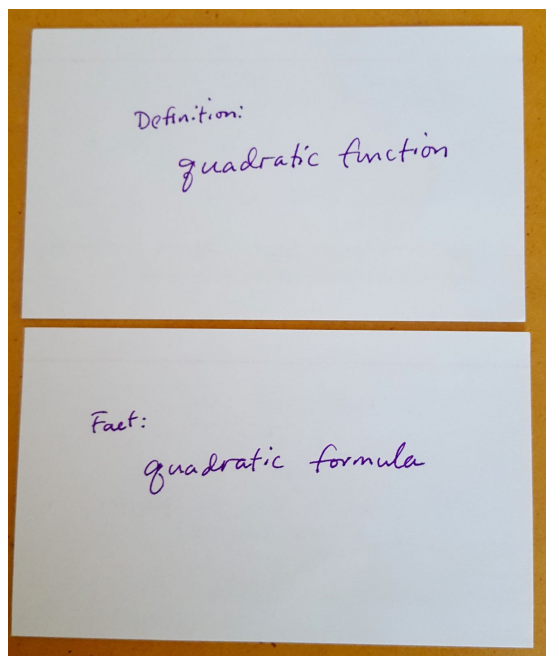
Make a notecard, or use some equivalent electronic medium, for each vocabulary term and each fact in each section of the reading. The simplest format is to write by hand on index cards, with terms or names of facts stated on one side and definitions and full statements of facts on the reverse. Alternative formats include pages divided down the center, with terms or names of facts in one column and full definitions and full statements of facts in the opposite column. There are also apps that create electronic versions of physical index cards.

Whatever medium you choose, the content should be like this:

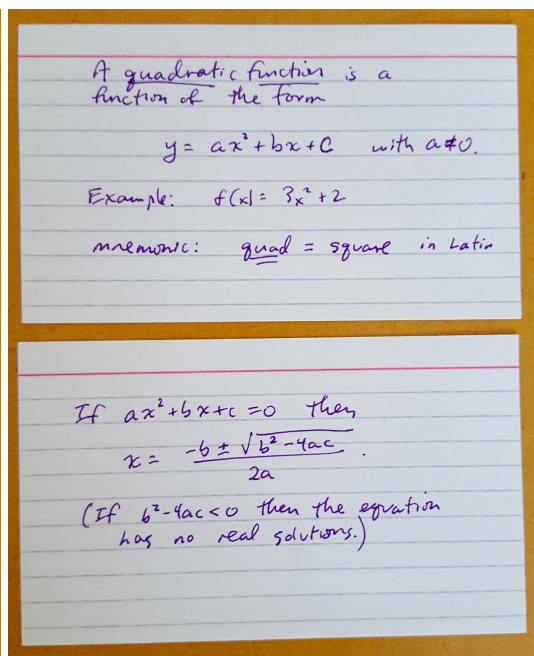
- Front of card, or left column of divided page: Put the term to be defined or the name of the fact on the front of the card.
- Back of card, or right column of divided page: Put the definition of the term or the statement of the fact, using one or more complete sentences, on the back of the card. Give an example that illustrates the vocabulary term or fact.

Here are examples of handwritten note cards for the definition of the term “quadratic function” and the statement of the fact called the “quadratic formula”:

Fronts



Backs



And here are the same examples in a divided page format.

Term or Fact	Definition or Statement
quadratic function (term)	A quadratic function is a function of the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ for some constants a, b, c with $a \neq 0$. Example: $f(x) = 3x^2 + 2$. Mnemonic: <i>quad</i> means “square”.
quadratic formula (fact)	If $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ (and $a \neq 0$) then $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$. (If $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then there are no real solutions.)