

## STUDY – Cramming for an exam

### TRANSCRIPT

I was never very good at preparing for exams when I was at school, so I'm probably not the best person to give advice now, but I learnt a few things through trial and error that might help. It's just a shame I didn't know these things then because I might've done better at exams. Firstly, I think you should make a plan or a study timetable before you start. Don't try to take on too much all in one go. It's a good idea to keep taking breaks every hour or so to give your brain and your eyes a rest. Otherwise, you might find you get productive as time goes on. If you're too tired, you won't take in new information, so make sure you stop for a while.

When you find important points or key words, you could underline them or you could highlight them with a highlighter pen, so it stands out when you go over your notes again. I find using different colours and the page helps a lot. Also, I think you ought to spend some time studying with friends, because you can help each other to understand difficult topics. We always say, two heads are better than one. To be honest, I never used to do this and I think I really missed out.

Some people like to cram just before an exam but you should really set aside plenty of time before an exam so you can cover all the important topics. After all, you never really know what's going to come up in an exam so it's best to cover as much as possible. Also, it's wise not to leave everything to the last minute as you will only panic.

Like I said, I wasn't a great student. I always used to scrape through in my exams, but that's probably because I used to try to cram everything in the last minute.

## VOCABULARY

**learn through trial and error** – learn from your mistakes

**don't take on too much** – don't do too much work

**all in one go** – at the same time

**take a break** – have a rest

**or so** – roughly, about, around, more or less, approximately

**productive** – working hard and getting a lot of work done

**take in new information** – learn and understand information

**so it stands out** – so it's clear, obvious, easy to see

**go over your notes** – read/revise your notes again

**two heads are better than one** – you'll find the answer more quickly if you work with friends

**miss out** – lose a good opportunity

**cram** – try to learn a lot of information in a short space of time just before an exam

**set aside time** – reserve, save, keep time for later

**come up in an exam** – appear in an exam

**panic** – become so worried that you can't think normally

**scrape through** – get the lowest passing grade

## GRAMMAR

### Advice – modal verbs

you **should** make a plan before you start

you **ought to** study with your friends

you **must** pass your exams to get into university

you **mustn't** cheat in the exam

you **have to** do what your teacher tells you

you **don't have to** study every day of the week

use **should** and **ought to** for giving **advice** and **making suggestions**

use **must** or **have to** for giving much **stronger advice**

use **don't have to** when something is **not necessary**