

Revision Techniques

Reflection and evaluation time:

Revision Technique 1: 'Quizzing'

Effective? Useful? Pros and cons?



eat. sleep. revise. And repeat.

Revision Technique 2:

'Self-explanation'

What is it? **Self-Explanation** is the practice of thinking out loud.

Purpose: To talk to yourself as you work on a problem. Ask questions, find specific answers, try different solution paths, comment on mistakes, identify changes in approach, etc. You are explaining to yourself what you are doing and thinking, therefore, helping with **recall** and **retention**.

Your revision task:

§ Make a list of prompts for **self-explanation**. For example: maths problems; questions to explore; key concepts / technical terms or vocabulary for different subjects that you need to understand, etc.

§ Work independently to talk yourself through a problem / work out or explain a definition / idea, etc. from your list. Your teacher could time you to make it more challenging (Eg: 1 min. to work through 1 self-explanation).

Questions and statements like these might be useful to support your problem solving / commentary during the self-explanation process:

- 1. What information do I need to know in order to solve this problem?*
- 2. Where can I find this information?*
- 3. Has this already been solved or answered?*
- 4. Do I have all the parts or information I need?.*
- 5. What do I need to know next?*
- 6. What would be another example of this?*

- 1. I need to be clearer on that.*
- 2. I don't understand – I need to find out more about that.*
- 3. Now I understand this.*
- 4. These examples will help me understand.*
- 5. That didn't work. Why not?*
- 6. That worked. I can try it again.*

See the next slide for an example of self explanation for a maths problem.

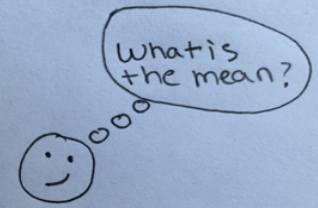
Step 1.

What do I need to work out with this problem?

I need to find the "mean" of a set numbers.

What is the "mean" in maths?

The "mean is the average.



Step 2.

The numbers I have in my number set are 8, 12, 5, 10, 13 so I need to find the "mean" of these numbers.

Step 3.

How do I work this out?

To find the mean, I first need to add all of these numbers up... I got 48.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ 12 \\ 5 \\ 10 \\ + 13 \\ \hline 48 \end{array}$$

Step 4.

What do I need to do next?

Next, I need to divide the sum of these numbers by the count, which is how many numbers there are in this set. There are 5 numbers in the set so I will divide 48 by 5.

$$48 \div 5 = 9.6$$

Yay!!

Step 5. *The mean is 9.6! Can I work out the mean of a different set of numbers now?*