

SEVEN STUDY ATTITUDES  
WORTH CULTIVATING

## PRACTICAL THINGS TO DO TO HELP YOUR STUDY

**❶ START TO STUDY!**

Even smart people need to practice in order to achieve. It's a myth that they don't. Practice is essential for excellence and success.

If you practise hard, it's almost impossible not to improve. If you do nothing, it's almost guaranteed that you won't.

So, make a firm decision that you **WILL** study.

**❷ START NOW!**

Don't procrastinate.

Talented students who don't study are often beaten by less talented students who do.

The longer you procrastinate, the less likely it will be that you will ever start.

So, don't just **DECIDE** that it is a good idea to study – **DO** something about it and **START TODAY!**

**❸ FOCUS!**

Focus on everything that you do and try to do it all well. Be determined to produce **QUALITY WORK**.



Remember that practice only makes permanent. Whether you practice sloppy or excellent work, the practice itself will begin to make it habitual.

So, make a habit of producing quality work – it should bring you some encouraging success and become easier to do in time.

Remember, it's "perfect practice that makes perfect" and "success is the sum of little things done well."

**❹ SHOW YOUR WORKING!**

Always practice **SETTING YOUR WORK OUT** neatly and clearly.

When you're first working in any new topic, develop a thorough understanding and a procedure for setting your work out that improves your success rate and reduces the possibility of your making careless errors.

Determine to make this a habit and it won't fail you.

**❺ DO DRILL WORK!**

Once you have a well understood procedure in place for setting your work out clearly and answering questions, try to do a lot of your mathematics study using oral drill work.

Having someone, or a computer program, to check your answers and give you immediate feedback allows you to concentrate on building speed without having to practice all that writing. In this way you can often complete questions at five and even ten times the rate that you would complete them when writing them down.

So, after you are confident with your work, make drill work a significant part of your study to improve your time efficiency.

You might also be surprised at how rapidly you can solve some problems in your head, with practice.

**❻ NEVER MISS A QUESTION!**

If you want to become a really first-rate mathematics student, **NEVER LET A QUESTION OR A PROBLEM GO BY THAT YOU CANNOT DO OR SOLVE.**

These questions provide you with your best learning opportunities!

Be prepared to invest significant amounts of time in the occasional difficult question. This is what happens when mathematicians do research.

This is incredibly valuable time and most students never, ever, get to benefit from it.

When you spend a long period of time on one question or problem, you'll be trying out all kinds of approaches and practicing all kinds of mathematical skills.

If you manage to solve the problem on your own, the sense of satisfaction and the huge boost in confidence that you can receive are immensely valuable.

Even if you eventually give up in defeat, ask someone to show you the solution and you will still have benefited immensely.

In short, this attitude makes a good student into a really top student!

**❼ EXPERIMENT!**

Experiment with a variety of ways of learning and major on the ones that work for you. These methods include things like writing notes, reading out aloud, listening to sound files, watching videos, discussing with others, teaching others, practising a skill on paper, reciting while walking, composing a poem or a song, getting someone to check you orally, and the list goes on and on.

Have fun thinking up, and trying out, new and creative ways of learning. Search for "learning styles" on the Internet.

Understand that some people learn better by reading and others learn better in other ways and there are many factors that influence your memory.

Learn what works for you and your study will be much more time-effective and it should be more enjoyable as well.