Reading skills practice: Study problems – help is here – exercises

Are you going crazy with the amount of homework and exams you've got? Never fear, help is here ... in the form of E-tutor's online problem page.

Preparation

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

lack	distracts		storage
peers	revise	process	rota
siblings	improve		efficient

1. He _____ me by playing music when I'm studying.
2. I need to _____ for my end-of-year exams.
3. I have two _____ – one sister and one brother.
4. We have a _____ system for housework and it's my turn to do the washing-up today.
5. I need to find _____ space for my things while I am travelling.
6. Some plants may die when there is a _____ of rain.
7. Slow down! I can't _____ all the information if you speak too quickly.
8. If the weather doesn't _____, we won't be able to have a picnic.
9. My _____ at school are quite competitive at exam time.
10. Sharing a car is a more _____ way of travelling to work every day.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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www.e-tutor.co.uk/forum

Ask E-tutor

Hi! I'm E-tutor, or Emma. I'm here to help with any study-related problems, whether big or small.

Post a message on the forum below.

What should I say to my sister?

Hi, E-tutor. Unfortunately, I share a bedroom and a desk with my elder sister. She continually distracts me because she's noisy and disorganised. I think she's disrespectful. I've got exams in a fortnight and I desperately need to revise. I can't concentrate when she's studying too and the desk is always overflowing with stuff so I can't find anything. If I try to have a dialogue with my sister, she gets annoyed. Can you help?

Meg
9:42 am

Re: What should I say to my sister?

Hi, Meg. That's a common complaint between siblings. Why don't you discuss a rota system so that you use the desk at different times? Or maybe you could study at the local library, cultural centre or community centre a few days a week. Make sure you've got storage space for everything on your desk: folders and containers for your paper and stationery. If everything has its own place, it will be easier to keep orderly. It might even be enjoyable to do this together. If it's easier to write instead of talking face to face, try messaging her and explain how awful you feel.

E-tutor
9:55 am

Against the clock

My problem is time – or lack of it! Next month I've got 12 exams in three weeks. How can I possibly study for all of them? It's complicated. I think it's impossible.

Rudy
1:00 pm

Re: Against the clock

Hi, Rudy. It isn't impossible but you DO have to get started NOW. Make a study plan and highlight periods of study time for each subject. Make a detailed plan for this week and then do the same for the weeks ahead. It's better to study for an hour or so a day than just once a week, all day. Your brain needs time to process information.

E-tutor
1:30 pm

Disaster

My problem is silly and a bit embarrassing. I just find it hard to study. I always stop and start and I keep getting the impression that I'm learning the wrong things. I'm a disaster. I don't think you can really help me.

Hayley
2:04 pm

Re: Disaster

Hayley, your problem isn't silly at all! It's very real and lots of people experience the same thing as you. Sometimes things improve if they join a study group. Set up a group and meet a couple of days a week after school to study together. Take turns to give presentations and teach other what you know. It's called 'peer teaching' and is an effective and efficient practice for lots of students.

E-tutor
2:50 pm

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BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish Teens

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1. Check your understanding: grouping

Who is it about? Write the sentences in the correct group.

This person feels embarrassed about a problem.	This person is advised to study a little every day.	This person is panicking because of insufficient time.
This person isn't sure about which things need to be studied.	This person has exams in two weeks' time.	This person is advised to create a detailed plan for studying.
This person is advised to study outside the house.	This person is advised to study with other people.	This person shares study space with a member of the family.

Meg	Rudy	Hayley

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

1.	Meg doesn't respect her sister.	*True*	*False*
2.	Meg finds it difficult to talk to her sister.	*True*	*False*
3.	E-tutor thinks Meg's problem is unusual.	*True*	*False*
4.	Rudy believes he has an impossible task.	*True*	*False*
5.	E-tutor thinks Rudy needs to start studying immediately.	*True*	*False*
6.	Rudy needs to study a little and often.	*True*	*False*
7.	Hayley is confident that her problem can be solved.	*True*	*False*
8.	E-tutor recommends that Hayley studies with a teacher.	*True*	*False*

Discussion
Have you got any study problems or tips to share?

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