

Rereading

What is Rereading?

Rereading is one of the most used methods of studying when students are left to study alone. Some studies show that almost 70% of students said that they reread at least some of the course information during any given studying session.

Why Would a Student Use Rereading?

Rereading may be used as a way of refreshing your knowledge of a topic before beginning studying or before an exam. Some people say they can learn this way, while others say they cannot.

Does Rereading Work?

Evidence – Students were asked to read a piece of text. Students were split into 2 groups. One group could read at their own pace and one group had to read at a pace which was chosen for them. After a 10-minute gap, students from both groups had to take a test. The students were given the text they had just read and some of the words were missed out. They had to fill in the gaps. Those in the first group – who could read the text at any pace they wanted, meaning that they could read it more than once – performed better on the test.

The results show that performance was better on the test if you had read the text more than once. This means that rereading appears to have a benefit on learning.

Why?

- Quantitative Theory – Rereading increases the amount of information that you store in your long-term memory. The more you read, the bigger the chance is that you will store some of the information you read.

- Qualitative Theory – Rereading means that you are getting more chances to work through the information and as a result, more chances to pick out the main points and understand it better.
- The qualitative theory seems to be found to be true more often.

Is Rereading Useful for Studying?

Rereading requires no training to use it. However, knowing that rereading is generally more effective after a sensible delay rather than directly after you first read the information can be helpful for students to know.

Rereading is not time consuming. Generally, people can read information faster if they have previously read it before. This means that when studying, you are not spending too much time going over one idea or concept if you have previously read about it.

However, when compared to other methods of studying, rereading does not appear to be overly helpful. It may also stop students from using more useful studying methods because they are preoccupied with rereading information.

Overall Rating of Effectiveness: Not Very Useful