

## READING

## How to Be a Successful Student

by Alana Simmons

While many students think that intelligence is key, in fact, dedication and focus is much more important to student success than any other factor. So, if you want to be a great student, with great marks, follow our six guidelines below to develop winning habits.

**Review schoolwork on the same day**

Go over everything you did in school on the same day, while it is still fresh. That way, you can fix the material in your mind or identify topics that you need help with. If you find that you need help, you can ask your teacher the following day.

**Write everything down**

Writing has been scientifically proven to aid in committing things to memory. Having notes also helps when you need to revise for a test.

**Don't multitask**

When you sit down to study, turn off the TV, radio, notifications on your phone and any other distractions from electronic devices. It is best not to check emails and messages and not to take phone calls.

**Intelligence vs hard work**

Don't overestimate the value of intelligence and don't



underestimate the value of hard work. Great effort will yield great results.

**Pace yourself**

Most students can't focus for more than an hour. Our suggestion is to study for forty-five minutes and rest for fifteen, before returning to work.

**Break things down into smaller tasks**

When you have a big task, like a project or a test to study for, make a list of all the small steps you must take to get you to your final goal successfully.

*Follow these six easy steps and you will become the student you dream of being, getting the great marks and success you know you can achieve.*

**1 Read the article and tick the correct answer.**

- 1 What is the article about?  
 a How to be an intelligent student.  
 b How to be an outstanding student.  
 c How to be a knowledgeable student.
- 2 How many tips does the article offer?  
 a six  
 b seven  
 c eight
- 3 This advice is for ...  
 a students.  
 b parents.  
 c teachers.

**3 Read once more and complete the sentences.**

- 1 If you want to be an outstanding student, follow the six guidelines \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Review the day's work \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Writing things down \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 A suggestion to remain focused is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Breaking things down \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Following these steps will \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Read the article again and write T (true) or F (false).**

- 1 Dedication and focus are more important than intelligence for student success. \_\_\_\_\_ T
- 2 It is not necessary to go over the day's schoolwork. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Taking notes has been proved to help students remember what they study. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Successful students should do two things at the same time. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Students are advised to study for two hours straight without a break. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 It is best to take things step by step. \_\_\_\_\_

## VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR

### 1 Match the columns to form complete expressions

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 take                 | <input type="radio"/> a techniques        |
| 2 to be                | <input type="radio"/> b expressions       |
| 3 use self-study       | <input type="radio"/> c effect            |
| 4 keep a               | <input type="radio"/> d notes             |
| 5 find                 | <input type="radio"/> e learning journal  |
| 6 read facial          | <input type="radio"/> f doing             |
| 7 learn by             | <input type="radio"/> g good at something |
| 8 understand cause and | <input type="radio"/> h connections       |

### 2 Use the expressions from Exercise 1 to complete the sentences.

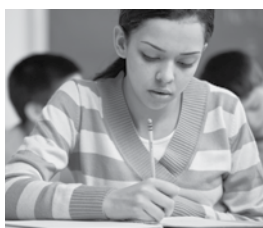
- Being able to *read facial expressions* helps students to understand their teachers better.
- Everybody is \_\_\_\_\_ . You just need to discover what.
- If you \_\_\_\_\_ , you can keep track of your successes and challenges.
- Sometimes reading is not enough. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ .
- It is best to \_\_\_\_\_ in class and review them later.
- Studying Science helps students to \_\_\_\_\_ .

### 3 Match the definitions to the terms.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Students like to hear solutions and examples explained to them. They are often able to hear notes and tones in music and speech.   | <input type="radio"/> a visual / spatial         |
| 2 Students like diagrams and drawing out concepts, charts and processes. They learn by looking at or creating visual concepts.   | <input type="radio"/> b social / interpersonal   |
| 3 Students prefer reading and writing, word games and poems; are good with words, can use them effectively, and like seeking out new words to add to their vocabulary.                 | <input type="radio"/> c logical / mathematical   |
| 4 Students prefer careers in programming, accountancy, science, research and other number and pattern-orientated careers. These learners are good at recognising patterns and numbers. | <input type="radio"/> d solitary / intrapersonal |
| 5 These students are hands-on learners who prefer to physically engage with the materials of the subject matter. These learners prefer to 'get their hands dirty' and are energetic.   | <input type="radio"/> e verbal / linguistic      |
| 6 These learners prefer working in groups. They are usually extroverted and good communicators.  | <input type="radio"/> f auditory / musical       |
| 7 These learners can be visual, auditory, physical, verbal or logical learners, but are also independent, introspective and private.   | <input type="radio"/> g physical / kinaesthetic  |

### 4 Label the different students using the words in the box.

concentrate   learn by doing   move   talk   touch



1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 What is my learning style? Read about each of these students. What learning style do they have?



1 My name is Beatrice. I love numbers, so I do well in Maths and Science. I like to discover patterns when I am learning something new. I would like to be a doctor.

Beatrice is a logical / mathematical learner.



2 My name is Pietro. When I grow up, I want to be a composer. I always listen to music when I study and I have even made some of my study notes into a rap. It was a huge hit in class.

Pietro is a \_\_\_\_\_ learner.



3 My name is Amanda. I am good at languages. I like reading different kinds of novels and poetry and I am a pretty good writer too. I love finding new words in the dictionary which I can use in my stories.

Amanda is a \_\_\_\_\_ learner.



4 My name is Antonio. When I take notes in class, I always rewrite them in the form of a flow chart. This way I can revise what we studied, and I can understand the subject more easily.

Antonio is a \_\_\_\_\_ learner.



5 My name is Joanna. I love doing projects with my friends. I think group work is better because we can share our ideas and knowledge and help each other to be better students.

Joanna is a \_\_\_\_\_ learner.



6 My name is Raul. I like reading and writing. I take great notes in class, but I prefer to study at home where I can have silence and privacy to really learn.

Raul is a \_\_\_\_\_ learner.

## 6 Complete the text with the words from the box.

learning journal   good at   notes   ~~learning style~~  
cause and effect   study alone   memorising  
work with others

There are many things that good students do to be successful. First of all, a good student understands his or her <sup>1</sup> learning style, that is, the techniques that work best for them when they are learning. One way to discover one's learning style is to keep a <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. That way, it will be easy to understand <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ related to one's learning. One important thing that all good students do is take <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, which helps with <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. But good students are not just <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ studying. They also usually <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on projects and assignments. However, students with solitary / intrapersonal learning styles prefer to <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, so again, taking the first step and knowing about one's learning styles is the key to being a successful student.

## 7 Complete the sentences about Giovanni with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Giovanni is (be) the top student in his class.
- 2 His classmates always \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to work with him.
- 3 He \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for three hours every day after school.
- 4 He and his friends \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football twice a week.
- 5 He \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) so good at football, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) playing.
- 6 Although he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a good student, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not do) so well in French.



**8** You are going to interview Giovanni about his learning style and study habits. What are you going to ask him?

- 1 When / study? When do you study?
- 2 Where / study? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What / revise? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Who / help / difficulty? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Why / successful student? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 How many / study / daily? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What / weekends? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 How / prepare / tests? \_\_\_\_\_

**9** What does a successful student not do? Make a list.

- 1 Successful students / get distracted / mobile phones and social media  
Successful students don't get distracted by mobile phones and social media.
- 2 A successful student / waste time  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Successful students / procrastinate  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A successful student / forget to do / homework  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Successful students / eat lots of junk food  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 A successful student / ignore advice / teachers and parents  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10** Complete the dialogue with the Present Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

**Ana** "Hi, Mum. What are you doing?"

**Mum** "I am making (make) empanadas."

**Ana** "Yummy. But why? \_\_\_\_\_ anything special \_\_\_\_\_ (happen)?"

**Mum** "Not really, but your father \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a get-together with some friends in the living room, so I thought I would make them a treat."

**Ana** "Ah, yes! They \_\_\_\_\_ (play) his old-fashioned music!"

**Mum** "Don't say that! It's much better that what you young people \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to these days."

**Ana** "If you say so, Mum! Well, got to run! I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for my test tomorrow. Don't forget to call me when the empanadas are done."

**Mum** "Ha-ha. I won't."

**11** George and Lisa are looking at Lisa's family photo album and talking about the pictures. Write George's questions.

1 **Q:** Where are you and your family going? (go)

**A:** We are going to California by car.

2 **Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ (do)

**A:** I think they are trying to make a pyramid.

3 **Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ (wear)

**A:** It looks like they are having a fancy dress party. That's why everyone is wearing such strange clothes.

4 **Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ (celebrate)

**A:** They are celebrating my grandfather's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday here. See the cake?

5 **Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ (get / married)

**A:** That's my aunt. She is wearing a beautiful dress.

6 **Q:** \_\_\_\_\_ (hold)

**A:** My mum is holding me!

**12** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1 If I ask (ask), my teacher explains (explain) a second time.

2 If you \_\_\_\_\_ (waste) time, you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) badly in the test.

3 If they \_\_\_\_\_ (not sleep) enough, they \_\_\_\_\_ (be) irritable the next day.

4 If you \_\_\_\_\_ (play) sports, you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a healthy body and mind.

5 When you \_\_\_\_\_ (put) in the effort, you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the reward.

**13** Complete the text with *can*, *can't*, *could* or *couldn't*.

When Berto was a child, he <sup>1</sup>couldn't play sports because he was very sick. The only activities he <sup>2</sup>could do were quiet ones like reading, doing puzzles and playing board games. He <sup>3</sup>could even go outside to play with the other kids. He underwent many treatments and his health improved, so now, he <sup>4</sup>can play football and basketball with his friends. Because he read so much and did so many puzzles as a child, he <sup>5</sup>can also beat all his friends at quizzes. As good as his health is though, he <sup>6</sup>can't be a professional athlete like his idol, Lionel Messi.

## LISTENING

### 1 Listen and choose the correct option.

- Diego and Elena are ...
  - friends.
  - teacher and student.
  - brother and sister.
- What time of the day is it?
  - morning
  - lunch time
  - after school
- Diego and Elena are discussing ...
  - what they like about school.
  - what they don't like about school.
  - what's easy and difficult for them in school.

### 2 Listen again and write T (true) or F (false).

- Diego calls Elena. \_\_\_\_\_
- Elena is doing eight subjects this year. \_\_\_\_\_
- Elena is enjoying Maths and Science subjects. \_\_\_\_\_
- Elena is having difficulty with Biology. \_\_\_\_\_
- Diego is doing well in the same subjects as Elena. \_\_\_\_\_
- Elena has an idea to deal with their problem. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Listen once more and complete the sentences.

- Diego is doing really well in English, French and History.
- Elena has not finished \_\_\_\_\_.
- Diego is having difficulty with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Elena suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Diego suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Diego and Elena plan to go to the library \_\_\_\_\_.

## WRITING

### 1 Complete Fernanda's profile for the Dean's List with your own ideas.

#### Brookfield Academy Dean's List

We congratulate our outstanding students Camila, Santiago and Fernanda, who have all made the Dean's List for the second year in a row. We thank them for their contribution to the school community and the wider community through their volunteer work.

#### The Principal




Name: Camila Fernandez  
 Grade: 8B  
 Subject: Geography  
 GPA: 4.0  
 Hobbies: Ballet and jazz



Name: Santiago Garcia  
 Grade: 10C  
 Subject: English  
 GPA: 4.0  
 Hobbies: Polo and rugby



Name: Fernanda Diaz  
 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Complete the sentences about Camila, Santiago and Fernanda.

- Camila, Fernanda and Santiago go to Brookfield Academy.
- Camila, Santiago and Fernanda have been on the list \_\_\_\_\_ times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ make Camila, Fernanda and Santiago outstanding students.
- Camila is on the Dean's List for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Santiago is on the Dean's List for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fernanda is on the Dean's List for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Camila's hobbies are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Santiago's hobbies are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fernanda's hobbies are \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 Based on everything you have learned, write some advice for your classmates on how to be a great student.

- To be a great student, you should know your learning style.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 You are on the Dean's List. Write a message to your friend who goes to another school, saying what you do to be successful, what you are studying now and what your hobbies and volunteering activities are.

## SELF-CHECK

### 1 Complete the sentences with the correct verb.

- It's important to \_\_\_\_\_ notes in class.
- Tomás \_\_\_\_\_ good at Maths and Biology.
- Jan \_\_\_\_\_ a learning journal of her studies.
- Some people \_\_\_\_\_ by doing.
- A learning journal and notes can help you to \_\_\_\_\_ connections while you study.
- \_\_\_\_\_ good self-study techniques to do well in tests.

### 2 Match the learning styles to the related words.

- |   |                          |                       |   |                  |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | logical / mathematical   | <input type="radio"/> | a | alone            |
| 2 | solitary / intrapersonal | <input type="radio"/> | b | people           |
| 3 | physical / kinaesthetic  | <input type="radio"/> | c | notes and speech |
| 4 | social / interpersonal   | <input type="radio"/> | d | patterns         |
| 5 | auditory / musical       | <input type="radio"/> | e | words            |
| 6 | verbal / linguistic      | <input type="radio"/> | f | movement         |

### 3 Find the 6 words in the word puzzle.

concentrate   memorise   move   study  
talk   touch

O	K	X	I	N	Y	K	Q	J	P	E	G	A	R	I
T	A	B	Z	R	E	V	O	M	T	T	W	T	R	X
K	O	L	C	O	S	V	D	A	T	X	Q	O	Z	V
R	A	U	X	B	E	J	R	A	Q	C	S	Y	Q	Z
Q	R	C	C	T	C	T	L	G	V	N	S	C	Q	P
P	Y	C	O	H	N	K	B	V	B	C	T	H	S	Q
U	D	O	B	E	T	Y	R	P	Z	B	U	G	O	I
N	K	R	C	L	B	G	R	Y	I	I	D	B	B	F
E	H	N	J	R	G	A	Q	Q	C	R	Y	M	E	S
I	O	K	B	E	S	M	E	M	O	R	I	S	E	Y
C	J	P	R	N	L	F	Q	S	E	S	K	S	I	A
K	G	J	B	V	M	K	A	H	I	F	P	S	Y	Z
S	I	M	T	M	Y	D	O	E	S	J	M	U	V	L
G	P	O	H	V	Y	S	I	I	Q	D	X	L	C	N
R	R	D	N	M	C	U	C	G	I	M	B	L	T	L

### 4 Complete the text with the Present Simple or the Present Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi. My name <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (be) Cara. I <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (study) at Seaview High School. My friends and I all <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (do) well in school, but Matheus <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (be) the best student in our class. He is on the Dean's List. This year, he <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (do) advanced classes to prepare for university. He <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (study) the same subjects as we are, but at a higher level.



### 5 Complete the sentences with *can*, *can't*, *could* or *couldn't*.

- Ariana \_\_\_\_\_ speak four languages.
- When she was younger, she \_\_\_\_\_ speak three languages, then she learnt a fourth.
- She speaks three languages fluently, but \_\_\_\_\_ speak the fourth language that well yet.
- When her mother lived in Italy, she \_\_\_\_\_ speak English. After she moved to England she learnt English and now she speaks fluently.
- \_\_\_\_\_ you speak more than one language?
- Only Ariana \_\_\_\_\_ speak more than one language. My other friends \_\_\_\_\_ speak any foreign languages.

### 6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- If you \_\_\_\_\_ (study) hard, you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a good student.
- If Jason \_\_\_\_\_ (volunteer) after school, he \_\_\_\_\_ (get) on the Dean's List.
- When you \_\_\_\_\_ (like) people, you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a social learner.
- If you \_\_\_\_\_ (prefer) working alone, you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a solitary learner.