

# Using a Knowledge Organiser

Knowledge organisers are useful tools when it comes to learning and recalling information. However, just reading or copying is not the best way to get the most out of them. Learning happens when we have to think about what we are doing, and we can do this by self-testing.

1. Pick a section of the knowledge organiser and read through it.
2. Now turn over your knowledge organiser and write down as much as you can from memory. There are many different ways that you can do this. Look at the suggestions below or come up with your own.
3. Turn the knowledge organiser back over and look for anything that you missed.
4. Flip it back over one more time. Using a different colour pen, see if you can add in any extra information you missed the first time around.

## Put the information into a table.

Look	Write	Check	Correct
alkali metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1</li> <li>• react with water to produce hydrogen and a metal hydroxide</li> <li>• reactivity increases as you move down the group</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓	<b>melting and boiling points decrease as you move down the group</b>  <b>soft</b>  <b>shiny when cut</b>

## Draw spider diagrams or mind maps.

Write a topic or keyword in the centre of the page. Add everything you know about the topic in subtopics around the centre. Can you connect any ideas? Colour and pictures will make the information more memorable.

## Create a set of flashcards.

Write down keywords, questions or equations on one side of a card. On the other, write the definition or answer.

## Record yourself on your phone or tablet.

Listen back and check the recording against the knowledge organiser. Can you include more information a second time?

## Draw it.

Draw pictures or diagrams to represent each of the ideas in the knowledge organiser. Once you have finished, see if you can use the diagrams to write out the information. Check it against the knowledge organiser, is there anything you need to add?