



Improve your homework



Holly King-Mand

Holly King-Mand is the nation's favourite English teacher, having had thousands of young people join her online lessons during lockdown. She loves Shakespeare, etymology (the study of words and their origins) and sharing her love of learning. Here she reveals how to get organised with homework and succeed at even the trickiest of tasks.

1 Record instructions in a clear and detailed way

It's very important to clearly write down what you need to do. Use a notebook as your homework diary. It's a good idea to write down any tips or suggestions the teacher gives because you might have forgotten these by the time you get around to doing the homework.



2 Ask for help

If you're not clear what the instructions are, don't be afraid to ask your teacher to clarify them; they will want to help you succeed. Most schools run homework clubs, and these are great places to get

work done with teachers on hand to answer your questions.

3 Create the best environment for you

You can improve your focus by creating the right environment for homework. Sitting at a desk or table is a good start. Avoid doing your homework while slumped in front of the TV. Keeping your workspace tidy also helps. Classical music (or other types) might help you concentrate.



4 Do it the same day/ create a timetable

Doing your homework the same day (where possible) is a great habit to get into, but if it's not possible then create a timetable. Being organised will avoid any

last-minute panic and means you will not rush your work.

5 Organise using folders/dividers/labels

Being organised isn't just about timekeeping. Folders and dividers are a stylish and sensible way of keeping worksheets and completed homework in the right place. A folder for each subject or each submission day might work for you. Colour-coding is helpful when you're packing your school bag.



WORD FIT
The opposite of organised is disorganised, not unorganised.



A few simple steps can help make homework easier.



6 Check your work

Checking homework gives you a chance to correct any mistakes. Read over it slowly and check your spelling; you could even ask an adult to check it. I recommend reading the instructions one last time to make sure you've completed everything that was set.

7 Ask for feedback

To be really successful at homework, you'll need to know how to improve. Even if your teacher is delighted with what you've handed in, ask them how you could do better and how to stretch yourself. Your teacher will be impressed by your attitude, and you'll feel confident starting your next task. Win-win!



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