A student guide to using flashcards for learning

Flashcards are a great tool for helping you to retain information. They can work for all subjects. To use them effectively, follow these steps:

- Make your own flashcards
- Use cards, not thin paper
- Make them during the learning, not all at the end
- Write a key term on one side and a short explanation on the other side. Or, an answer on one side and the question on the other. Choose only the most important terms or questions. Don’t overload your cards with text!
- Review only one set of subject flashcards during a study session
- Make two piles as you review, ’I KNOW’, ’I DON’T KNOW’. Shuffle the cards and place each one into the relevant pile as you review. Keep shuffling the ones you don’t know until all the cards are in the ’I KNOW’ pile. Repeat 2 times!
- Ask another person to test your knowledge using the flashcards
- Review each flashcard set regularly