GET THE MOST FROM LECTURES

Falling asleep in lectures? Can’t see the point? Need to get more out of your lectures?

Making lectures work for you, can make your life as a student so much better AND more effective.

Understanding lectures
Lectures have many purposes. They provide:
- an explanation of complex material
- access to knowledge that may be hard to find in published material
- customised material for your particular area of study
- insights gained through the lecturer’s research
- an overview of a large topic
- a snapshot of connections between key concepts, theories and/or methodologies in your area of study
- a basis for discussion in tutorials
- a context for further individual study.

Lectures can help you develop a sense of excitement and a desire for more knowledge about a particular topic or discipline.

Make an effort to review lecture notes within 24 hours of each lecture

Get more out of lectures
Approach each lecture as an active learning experience.
- Arrive on time so you don’t miss the lecture outline and other introductory material.
- Sit near the front. It is usually easier to remain focused.

During the lecture
- Listen actively.
- Take notes of key points.
- Predict what is coming next (this is easier if you have done the required reading).
- Use your critical thinking skills. Ask questions (to yourself or to the lecturer if s/he allows this) as the lecture progresses. (Write these in a separate column of your notes and review them later or ask about them in tutes or labs).

Think…
- of examples relevant to you
- about how the material relates to the reading you have done (you can see why it is important to have done the reading)
- about how the lecture relates to the unit as a whole.

After
- Draw mind maps of the concepts covered and the relationships between them.
### Problems associated with lectures and how to overcome them

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Often an impersonal learning situation</td>
<td>Get to know those sitting near you. Students tend to sit in pretty much the same place each lecture. If you have someone to discuss the lectures with you will probably get a new perspective on the topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many potential distractions</td>
<td>Sit up the front. You'll find less to distract you there and it will seem more like the lecturer is talking to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfamiliar content</td>
<td>Do the set lecture and/or tutorial pre-reading. It’s easier to understand material you know something about. Many lectures are recorded so you will have a second chance to listen to them and check your understanding of those parts of the lecture that are unfamiliar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lectures could improve your social life.
They are a good chance to meet others interested in the same subjects

Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out...
Survival Guides: *Making the most of tutes, Presenting to an audience, Note-taking.*

Want to know more about STUDYSmarter?
Find out about all our services and resources at: [www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au](http://www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au)

Any suggestions?
We’d love to hear from you. Email us at [study.smarter@uwa.edu.au](mailto:study.smarter@uwa.edu.au)

This resource was developed by the STUDYSmarter team for UWA students. When using our resources, please retain them in their original form with both the STUDYSmarter heading and the UWA logo.