
Student Success \ Learning and Memory

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Memory Challenges: Misconceptions

Misunderstanding a concept when you think you have understood the concept.

MISCONCEPTIONS OFTEN RESULT IN:

- Fuzzy and superficial understanding.
- Concepts getting mixed up.

EXAMPLES OF MISCONCEPTIONS:

- Physics: confusing velocity with acceleration.
- Biology: confusing myosis with mitosis.

STUDENTS OFTEN CAN STUDY LONG HOURS BEFORE EXAMS BUT...

- Many of their misconceptions have not been addressed.

MISCONCEPTIONS ARE OFTEN A MAJOR SOURCE OF ERRORS ON EXAMS AND CAN HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON YOUR GPA

- Effective techniques for overcoming misconceptions:
- Use the timed short-quiz technique for testing your understanding of Concepts
- Ask “how”, “what”, and “why” questions to examine your in-depth understanding of concepts.