



## 03 - VOCABULARY: STUDYING



- 1 - Let's start by looking at synonyms for the verb 'study'. In UK English, if you study again something you have already learned, you **revise** it. (The noun is revision.) In US English, the verb **review** is used: *(UK) I'm revising for my test tomorrow. / (US) We're reviewing for an exam next week.*
- 2 - If you are trying to learn a lot of facts very quickly before an exam, you might be said informally to **be cramming**: *She was cramming for her final exams.*
- 3 - If you make an effort to learn about a particular subject for an exam or other test, you may be said to **bone up on** that subject: You'd better bone up on your local history before the quiz! In UK English you can also say **mug up**: *I need to mug up on conservation policy before the interview.*
- 4 - Related, a time when you spend all night studying, especially for an exam, is sometimes called informally an **all-nighter**. I've done so little revision for my test tomorrow – *I might have to pull (=do) an all-nighter.*
- 5 - If you learn a skill or a language very well so that you are extremely good at it, you **master** it: *He lived in Spain for several years but never quite mastered the language. / She soon mastered the technique.*
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- 7 - To **pick up** a new skill or language is to learn it by doing or practising it rather than learning it formally: *I picked up a bit of French in the few months I spent in Paris. / He never actually learned to cook – he just picked it up as he went along.*
- 8 - If you learn something **by heart** you learn it in such a way that you can say it from memory: *We all had to learn a poem by heart and thirty years later, I can still recite it.*
- 9 - To learn something **by rote** is to learn it by saying it many times, without necessarily understanding it: *In those days, multiplication tables were still learnt by rote.* This process is called **rote learning**.
- 10 - If you **absorb** information, you understand and remember it: *It's just hard to absorb so much information.* Finally, to **assimilate** new information is to understand and remember it so that you can use it as your own: *You have to assimilate so much knowledge as a trainee doctor.*