

# Using highlighting to boost your revision



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## Highlighting is not:

A strategy that will help you memorise lots of information.

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## Highlighting is:

A technique that can help you identify what to revise.

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## Highlighting should:

Identify the key words and concepts in a text.

## Read the text first

Firstly, focus on reading the text without thinking about what to highlight. Until you know the full context of the page or paragraph, it's difficult to know what is important and what is not.

## Only highlight key information

Highlighting entire paragraphs is similar to highlighting nothing at all! If you struggle with selecting what to highlight, set a clear goal for highlighting. For example, "I'm going to highlight the three main points on this page" or "I'm only going to highlight key terms and their definitions".

## Use colour coding

Colour coding can help remind you why you decided to highlight a certain section of the text. For example, you might highlight the quotes in 'Romeo and Juliet' that are connected to the theme of **love** in one colour and the quotes that are connected to the theme of **conflict** in another colour.

## View highlighting as a starting point

Research suggests that highlighting alone is unlikely to be helpful in boosting your memory. However, it can help you to identify the key information you will need to move on to other revision strategies. For example, if you have highlighted key words and their definitions, you could turn these into flashcards.