

# EFFECTIVE FLASHCARDS

## TRAIN TO LEARN EFFECTIVELY: TIP SHEETS

### Remembering & Understanding Definitions

Flashcards can be an effective method to remember information; however, when it comes to definitions, we tend to memorize facts mechanically without actually understanding what the concept is about. So when testing, Professors need to make sure you understand the subject. To do so, they may use different wording or a particular angle. Thus, if we only memorize a definition like a poem or the lyrics of a song, without actually understanding what it means, chances are we won't be able to answer correctly.

The following are some simple steps to keep in mind when dealing with definitions and to incorporate in flashcards. These steps will help you remember, as well as understand the subject or content you are studying.

1. Identify and look up all the **unknown/ unfamiliar words** in the definition.
2. Provide some context by finding an **example or fact** that illustrates the definition.
3. Draw an **image** linked to the example and/or definition.

### Example

Let's look at the definition for the word tariff\* and how it's presented on the back of the flashcard:

The image shows a flashcard layout. At the top, the word "TARIFF" is written in large, bold, black letters inside a white rectangular box with a black border. A thick black arrow points from the right side of this box down and to the right towards a larger rectangular box below. This larger box contains the following text:

**TARRIF: A system of duties, of imports and/ or exports.**

1. **Unknown/ Unfamiliar Word:** Duties  
**Duties** is "a tax imposed on imports (and sometimes exports) by the customs authorities of a country to raise revenue, and/ or protect domestic industries.
2. **Example/ Fact:** The U.S.A. first imposed the tariff to Cuba in 1959, after the triumph of the Cuban revolution.
3. **Image/ Graphic Memory Aid:**

Below the list is a graphic memory aid consisting of the Cuban flag (a red triangle with a white star) to the left of the word "Cuba" in blue, followed by a thick black arrow pointing to the word "TARIFF" in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom left of the graphic, there is a small caption: "1 Cuban Ministry of Tourism".

### Reference

Tariff example was adapted from:

Bruckner, S. (2011, April 6). LBCC – How to Remember for Tests [video file]. Retrieved from:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rncitiqvXcg>.