

## Study Tips for General Chemistry

### Before class:

- Scan the assigned reading. Look for key concepts. Do the Conceptual Connections.

### During lecture:

- Take notes, especially of the things I say (not write). Since I post the notes on Blackboard you can always see what I wrote, but not what I said.
- If you have problems setting up calculations, write down the steps and why we did it that way instead of all the numbers. You can review the notes later and re-work those problems.
- Ask questions!

### After lecture:

- Fill in the gaps in your notes. If something you wrote doesn't make sense, use the book to clarify.
- Work the homework problems related to those sections after each class period. Try your best to solve them without notes and hints. If you use the hints for homework (and you should if you are lost), write down the conceptual steps to solve the problem. That way you can use that plan to solve future problems.
  - Example: *First, solve for the number of moles because grams were given. Use the formula mass.*
- I am working many of the practice problems in the lecture notes in Educreations videos. I explain why we do each step. You can watch on the website or the app. If you have requests, let me know and I will do them. (<http://www.educreations.com/sr/983D81>)

### Recitation:

Come to recitation. It is that simple. Ask for help from your group or me.

### Studying for an Exam:

- Study chemistry for at least one hour of every day of the week.
- Seek help early.
- Work lots and lots of problems. (I can assign personalized practice problems on MyLabs if you need them.)

- Read the text. Do not just skim the words. The Conceptual Connections test your understanding. If you can't answer them, you need to review.
- Do the text problems as you come to them. They are placed so as to enhance your understanding and learning of the particular topic they accompany.
- Do not look at the answer key unless you have an answer or you are totally stumped. Ask a classmate (or TA) for a clue first if you can.
- If you get a problem wrong, work through the answer on paper until you can reproduce it, and until you understand why each step occurs the way it does. Then try another problem of the same type right away! The odd numbered end-of-chapter problems have answers in the back of the book, fyi.
- Do not spend more than 15 minutes on any one problem. If you haven't solved the problem by that time, you are probably missing something and further effort is a waste of valuable study time. A review of the text, your lecture notes, or another source of material (perhaps even another text) is called for. Go on to other problems, and return to these difficult ones.
- Form study groups. A small groups of students working together often exchange ideas and concepts to the benefit of everyone. Teaching each other is an ideal way to learn chemistry. However, do not allow these study sessions to turn into pizza parties and gossip sessions. Group study sessions should be all business.