How to succeed

The University of Kent
School of Computing
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Powerful Lessons in Personal Change

With a Foreword by Jim Collins, author of Good to Great and co-author of Great by Choice

Stephen R. Covey

25th Anniversary Edition
Over 25 Million Copies Sold

Book cover image (c) Simon & Schuster
Keep on top of things
Too much reading, assignment deadlines, things you don't understand

Teaching

Something important you don't understand

Get it sorted, quickly

Otherwise it will just grow and grow

Image courtesy of Wikipedia
Follow instructions

(1) Getting instructions

You will get very clear instructions via

- Handbook
- By email
- On Moodle page
- Verbal in lectures

Common university and school information is on our websites

(2) Following instructions

They are given for a reason...
If you don't understand them, ask
Take notes

Do you have a perfect memory?

If not, you'll need to **take notes**.

Here are some of the things you will get verbally, not written down:

- Items to focus on
- Exam hints
- What others found difficult
- Aide memoirs
- Points to remember
- Useful information for later
- The meaning of...
Let's see what you can remember
Questions

1. What was just behind the eggs (bottom left)?

2. There were three parasols. What colour were they?

3. How much were the tomatoes?

4. What colour was the tablecloth that the eggs were on?

5. There was a lady on the right carrying a box. What colour was her T-shirt?

6. In the bottom right there were some sunflowers.

7. How many of those pots had handles?

8. What day did the Peterborough Farmers' Market meet each week?
Fitness Centre Membership
(for the brain)

What is the best way to get fit?

A) Skip most of the fitness sessions, don't use the machines, don't exercise at home, hang around with friends who don't exercise and don't want to get fit.

B) Attend the fitness sessions, use the machines, exercise a bit at home, hang around with friends who want to get fit and push themselves to exercise.
Plagiarism
(don't)

Quoting code and text

Remember that when you quote material, you MUST own it or have the RIGHTS to quote it.

Be extremely careful...

Copying ideas, text, programs, diagrams from websites, papers, or other people without permission or acknowledgement is called

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism

You know you have plagiarised when:

1. You copy-and-paste ANY TEXT or CODE written by others into your program or document. Unless you are “quoting” it.

2. You copy-and-paste ANY FIGURE that was not created by you. Unless you state specifically where it was copied from (you also need to check the licence).

3. You take an idea from someone else and then pretend that it is your idea.
Plagiarism

The consequence of plagiarism

1. **We will** find out

You'll fail. Nobody will trust you in future. You won't have learned the topic, so you've missed out on an important skill.

2. **It's not good for you anyway**

You know you've cheated, you will lose your own self-respect and won't have confidence to face this topic in future.
Plagiarism

The consequence of plagiarism

Undergraduate Students
You will fail your work, maybe your entire degree.

Writing Papers / Books / Websites
Extremely serious – if found guilty you may never be allowed to have a paper or book published again. Maybe also a fine to pay, especially if this is online.

In Work
Most likely you will lose your job.
The German Defence Minister lost his job in 2011 when he was found to have copied text in his thesis (written 5 years before) without a citation.

German Defence Minister Guttenberg resigns over thesis

The German army was being restructured under Mr zu Guttenberg, so his departure leaves a gap in government.

German Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has stepped down after he was found to have copied large parts of his 2006 university doctorate thesis.

Mr Guttenberg, considered until recently a possible candidate for chancellor, has already been stripped of his PhD.

He told a news conference that it was "the most painful step of my life".
Plagiarism
What is intellectual property?

Maybe I am a painter.

I paint beautiful paintings and sell them to make money. One day you walk into my shop and steal a painting: you just take it from the wall and then walk out without paying...

I call the police, they track you down, arrest you and you go to prison.

Is this fair? Why?
Plagiarism
What is intellectual property?

Maybe I am a coder.

I write amazing software – efficient, fast and reliable.
One day you steal some of my code. You just download it and use it as your own, pretending you wrote it.

I call the police,
TODAY THEY JUST LAUGH AT ME
Plagiarism
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I call the police,

TODAY THEY JUST LAUGH AT ME
BUT TIMES ARE CHANGING... SOON, THEY WILL ARREST YOU AND YOU WILL SUFFER THE SAME CONSEQUENCE AS SOMEONE WHO STEALS A PAINTING.
Final words

Try to **maintain a balance in life**

Find ways of **studying** that **work for you**

**Nothing goes perfectly** (for long). We all hit bad times; just learn to recognise these and **work through them** until things start to look up again.

Have a **positive mental attitude** & **keep enthusiastic** about what you are **learning**

**Keep your mind and body healthy**

**Enjoy** your time in **university** and make the most of it