

Handling Fast Lecturers

You may find that your once a week class instructor (for example) has a lot to say and not enough time to say it, which leads to marathon lecture. This can leave you feeling confused and perhaps even frustrated. You may have a hard time filling out complete notes. If you find this is the case, check out these tips below to help deal with those fast speaking instructors

1. Take more time to prepare for class

Review your textbook or other materials beforehand. Doing so will help familiarize yourself with key points that the professor might cover in class.

2. Be willing to make choices

Instead of trying to write down everything, pick what you feel are the main points. Occasionally you may write down the wrong thing or neglect important information, but that's okay. When this happens, go back and revise your notes immediately after class with those points you left out.

3. Exchange notes with a classmate

Your classmate may have written down something that you missed, so it is always beneficial to have a second set of notes to supplement your own.

4. Leave empty spaces in your notes

Leave space in your notes so you can go back and fill in the information you didn't have time to write in during class. Use a symbol (like *) to signal that you have missed something so you can come back to it.

5. See your instructor after class

Visit your instructor after class or during their office hours to review your notes with them and catch up on what you missed or may still have question about. Trust us...they appreciate the company.

6. Use a voice recorder

Recording your instructor will give you the chance to review their lecture at any time. Some recording devices even have a feature to adjust the speed, so you can slow it down. Be sure that your instructor is comfortable with this before doing so.

7. Take notes on your readings before class

As you read, take notes on main points. Leave room in these notes to add in notes from the corresponding lecture.

8. Go to lecture again

Often times classes are taught in multiple sections. Ask your instructor if there is another section of the class that you can attend to listen to the lecture once more. This way you can review and add to your notes.

9. Ask questions

Most instructors will have a time for students to ask questions, typically called Office Hours. Use this time to clarify points that you may have missed. If you are so lost that you cannot come up with a specific question, let your instructor know. Often times they can guide you to a clearer question.

10. Ask the instructor to slow down

This is the most obvious solution to the problem, so do not be afraid to ask. If that does not work, ask the instructor to repeat themselves.