If you want to improve your grades, teach yourself some new habits. They’re not hard to learn.

- **Listen in class.** That way you’ll know what’s going on for homework and tests. You may even be able to figure out what’s likely to be on your tests.
- **Write it down in a planner.** You’ve got a lot going on in your life, so make notes about assignments and tests. If your math teacher says you’ll have a test next Thursday, make a note: Thursday, math test, factoring.
- **Work on your study skills.** See the checklist.
- **Don’t try to cram.** Break up studying for your math test by doing some Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday instead of trying to cram it all into one big Wednesday night session.
- **Read the textbook if you don’t understand something being discussed in class.** If you’re still having trouble, ask your teacher to explain it. Most teachers will be more than happy to give you extra time if you need a little help.
- **Read.** It’s the single best habit to form if you want to get good grades and do well on standardized tests. And there aren’t many jobs out there you can do without reading.