**Clear the Clutter** 

Cognitive load theory tips for health professions educators







# **Today's Speaker**

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Resident Doctor, Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, UK

Member of the Academy of Medical Educators

Medical Education Consultant, Lecturio



# Agenda

- 1 Introduction to Lecturio
- 2 Memory and cognitive load
- 3 Cognitive load theory
- 4 Managing cognitive load
- 5 Q&A



#### **Get Your Resource Pack Now!**

Download our complimentary Start Smart resources pack, specifically designed to help educators like you to kick off the with innovative teaching strategies.

#### Medical



#### Nursing





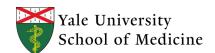


# Who Are We?

## Lecturio

# comprehensive digital medical education platform

Content from professors including from













#### Lecturio Covers the Entire

## **Medical & Nursing**

### Curricula in all key learning formats



12,000+ High-End Videos

in TV quality, short, and engaging



9,800+ Clinical Cases

with text and video explanations



35,000+ Recall Questions

using a spaced repetition algorithm and adaptive review



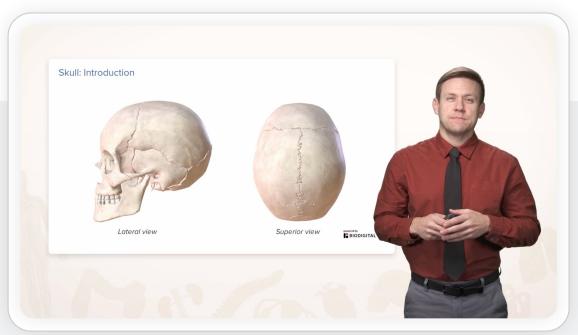
1,500+ Concept Pages

organized in a comprehensive library



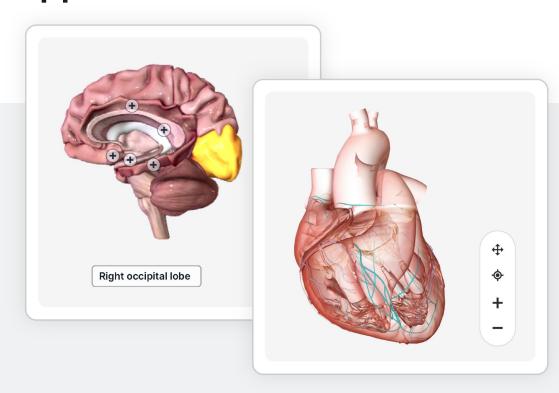
# Concise Videos on All Key Concepts

- All key medical concepts are covered in-depth
- 3-9 minutes
- Linked recall questions for formative assessment



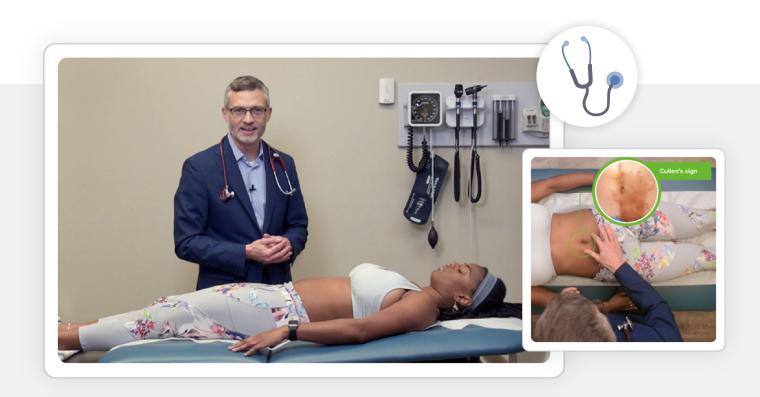


# 3D Anatomy With 400 Pre-Mapped Views





# **Comprehensive Coverage** of Clinical Skills





# **Comprehensive Coverage** of Clinical Skills



Q

Clinical Cases to Practice Application of Learned Concepts

- Real-life clinical scenarios
- Automated feedback
- Linked videos
- Use for self-directed learning or exams

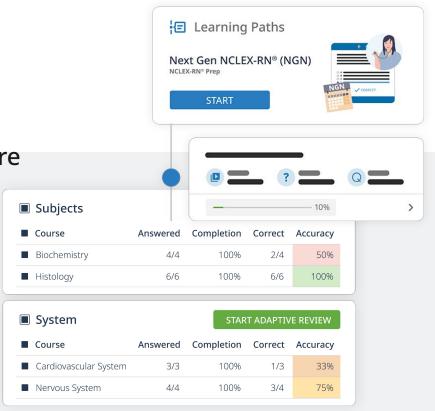




# Detailed Learning Paths

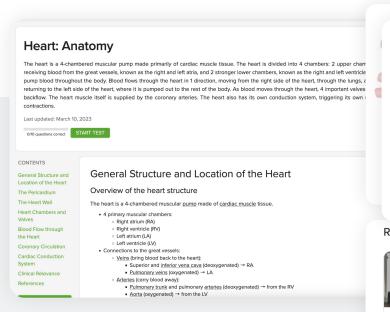
for USMLE® Step 1, 2, NBME Subject Exams, NP, NGN & More

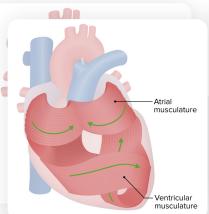
- Learning Paths combine video and Qbank blocks
- Adaptive review within each path

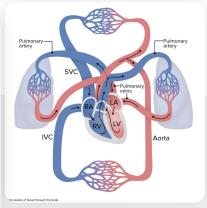


### **Lecturio Concept Pages**

### The fastest and easiest way to find and fill knowledge gaps



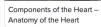






Anatomy of the Heart







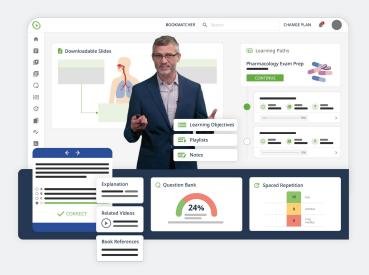
Heart - Heart (Cor)

#### The Two Sides of

## **Precision Health Science Teaching**

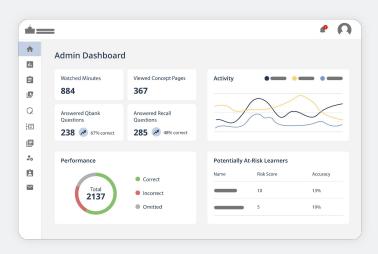
#### **For Students**

#### Personalized smart tutor



#### **For Faculty**

#### Digital teaching assistant



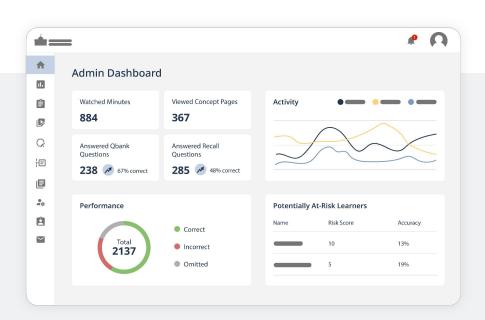


#### Comprehensive Tracking Enables a Comprehensive

# **Live Faculty Dashboard**

#### The system tracks:

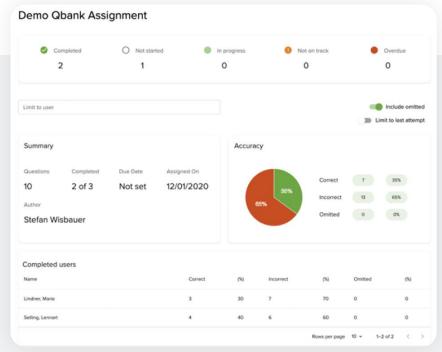
- competence
- confidence
- overconfidence
- spaced repetition adherence
- mastery level
- typical mistakes
- readiness assessments





# **Assignment Stats**

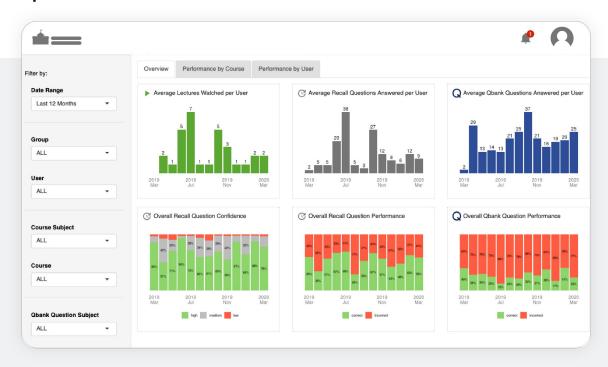
Help Focus Teaching Time on Where Students Struggle Including Typical Mistakes





# **Your Teaching Dashboard**

Aggregate Data With Location Drill-Down on Activity, Competence, Confidence, Over-Confidence





# **Easy Integration With Your Existing Setup**

#### LMS / Testing











Deep Linking LTI SSO

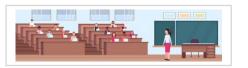
Proctoring Integrations



Session Prep: Strengths & Weaknesses, Typical Mistakes

Content & Recording Upload

#### **Live Teaching & Training**







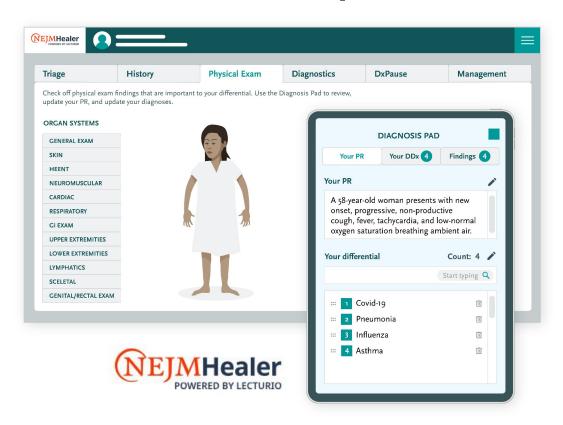


#### **Data Lake / Analytics**





# **Lecturio Acquires NEJM Healer**



Scan the QR code and learn more about NEJM Healer!



Free Online Event and Demo

**Clear the Clutter** 

Cognitive load theory - tips for health professions educators





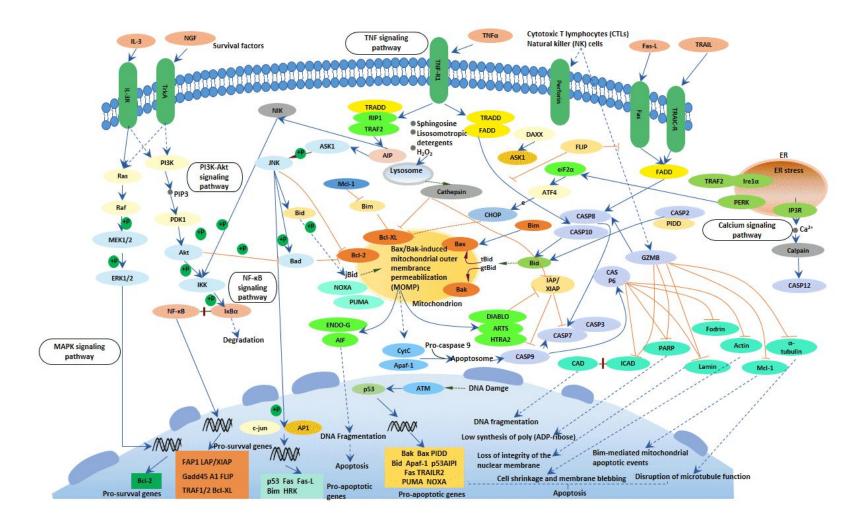
### Poll

Are you familiar with Cognitive Load Theory?



# Question

Have you experienced cognitive overload?



"Please perform a comprehensive geriatric assessment on this lady"

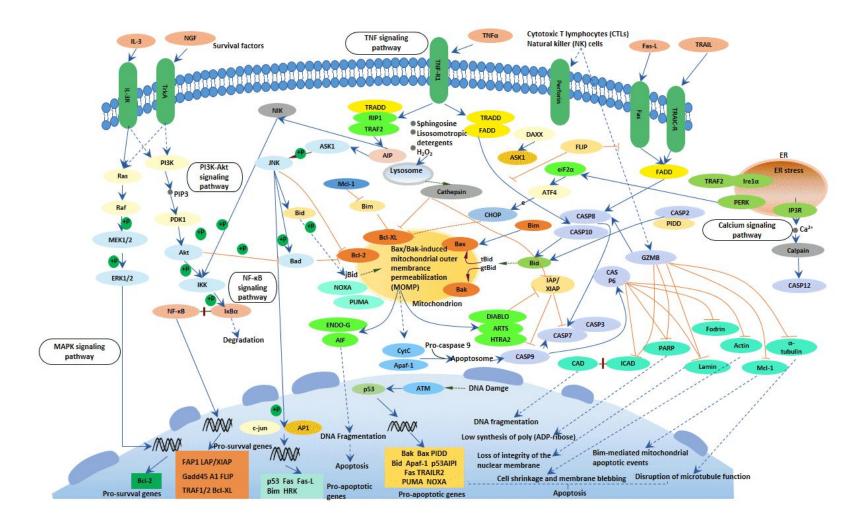
"Set up a syringe driver on this patient who is at the end of his life"

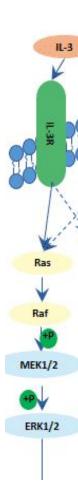
"Take a history"

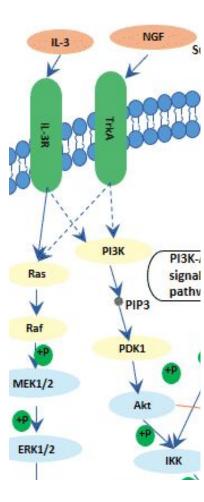
"What is the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes"

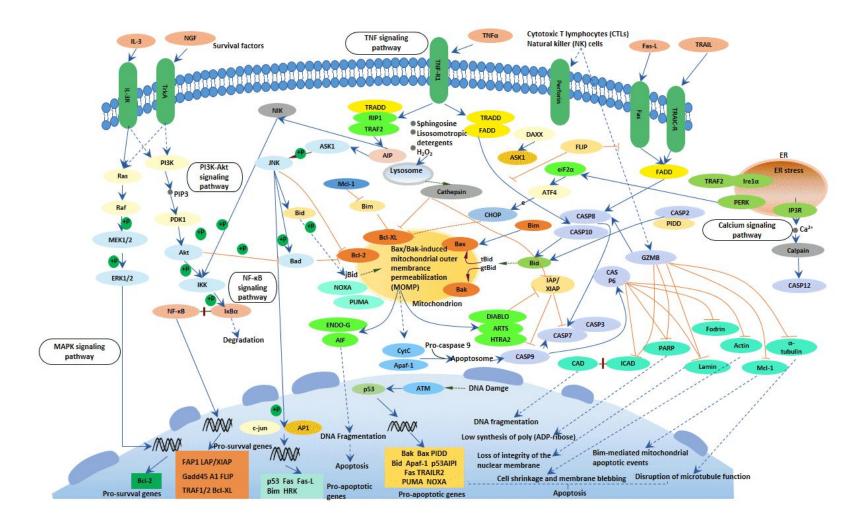
## What is Cognitive Load?

Amount of mental effort used to process information or perform tasks



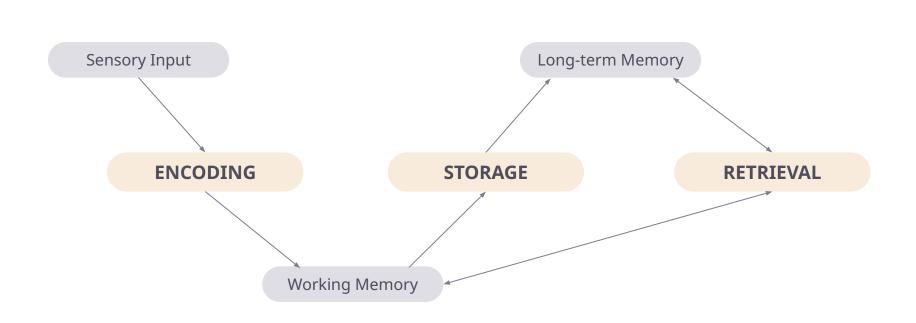








# Memory



# Strategies for Different Stages of the Memory Process

#### **ENCODING**

Initial exposure to stimulus

- Dual coding
- Semantic encoding
- Legistrative Elaborative encoding

#### **STORAGE**

Maintaining information in long-term memory

- Chunking
- Mnemonics
- Concept maps

#### **RETRIEVAL**

Access and utilization of information that has been encoded and scored

- Dual coding
- Semantic encoding
- Elaborative encoding

## **Working Memory Has a Limited Capacity**

- Holds 'seven plus or minus two' elements and actively processes only two to four elements at once
- Handles information for a few seconds and loses almost all information after 20 seconds unless refreshed by rehearsal
- Applies to completely novel, unorganised information



# **Working Memory Has a Limited Capacity**





## **Working Memory Has a Limited Capacity**

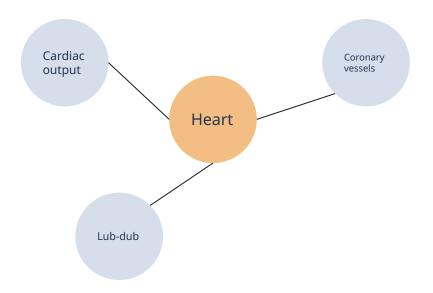
#### SFBICIAWHONHSCDC



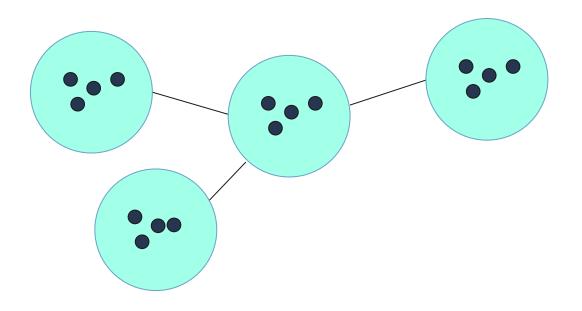
S FBI CIA WHO NHS CDC

- Chest pain causes grouping into cardiac/pulmonary/gastrointestinal/MSK/mental health
- Patient history taking SOCRATES instead of memorising all questions
- Chunking when breaking bad news

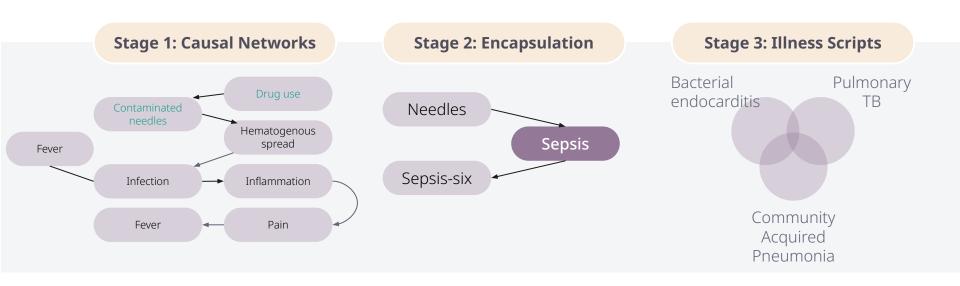








# **Evolution of Knowledge Structures** in Medical Training





## Example

Senior resident talking to a medical student about a patient who is 65 and has CKD, HTN, recent onset heart failure. He is on ACE inhibitors. Resident says his recent worsening of renal function is likely due to a combination of his HF but also the use of ACE inhibitors due to impact on renal perfusion.

#### Medical Student's Perspective:

The medical student, who is still mastering the basics of cardiovascular and renal physiology, struggles to keep up. They know about heart failure, kidney disease, and ACE inhibitors individually, but connecting these ideas into a coherent picture feels overwhelming. The student's cognitive load is maxed out as they try to process each piece of information and understand the complex interactions, leading to cognitive overload.



# **Cognitive Load Theory**

## **Cognitive Load Theory**

John Sweller, 1988

Working memory has a limited capacity to hold information at one time.

Instructional methods should avoid overloading students in order to maximize learning.

## **Cognitive Load Theory**

Attempts to dissect these issues and provides recommendations for instructional methods.



# **Types of Cognitive Load**

## **Types of Cognitive Load**

Intrinsic

The difficulty of a particular topic

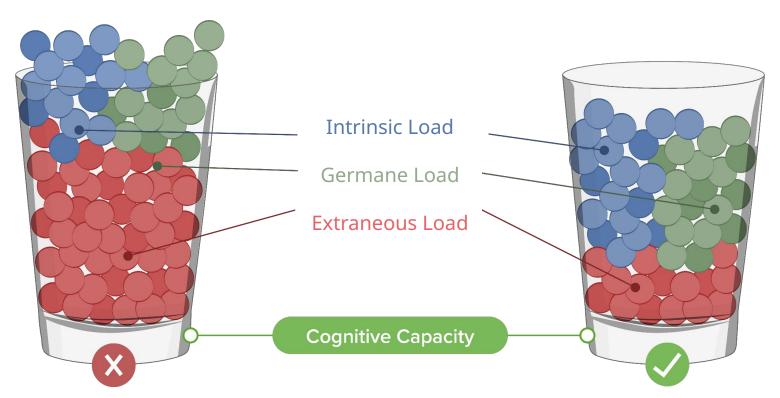
Germane

Effort needed to process into long-term memory

Extrinsic

Processes not related to learning

## **Types of Cognitive Load**



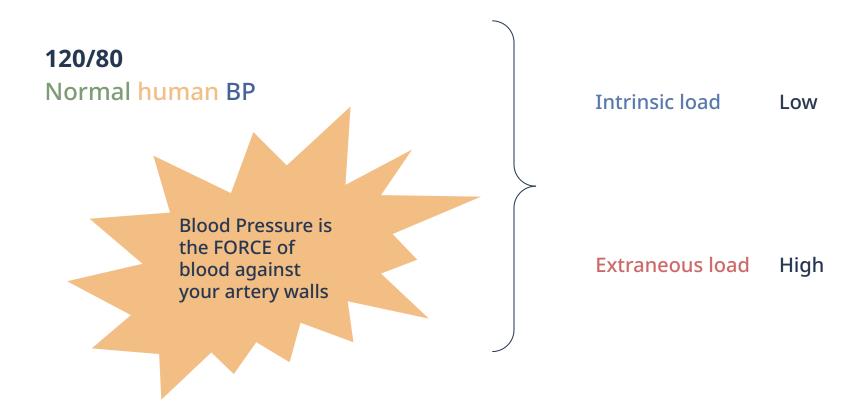


120/80

Normal human BP

Intrinsic load Low

Extraneous load Low



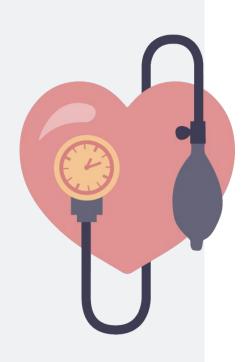


# Hypertension

Intrinsic load

Higher

Extraneous load High



120/80

Normal human BP

120-139

Hypertension Stage 1

>140

Hypertension stage 2

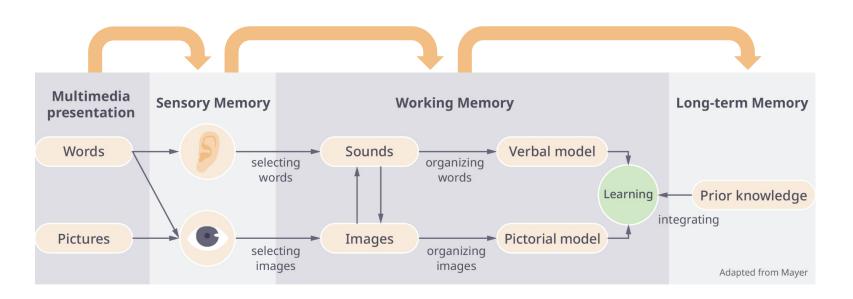
Intrinsic load

Higher

Extraneous load

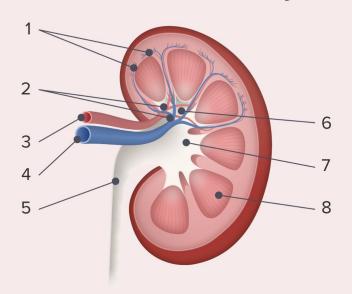
Low

## **Mayer's Cognitive Theory**





### **Kidney Anatomy**



- 1. cortical blood vessels
- 2. interlobular blood vessel
- 3. renal artery
- 4. renal vein

- 5. ureter
- 6. minor calyx
- 7. major calyx
- 8. medula

#### **Facts**

Kidneys filter 120-150 quarts of blood daily.

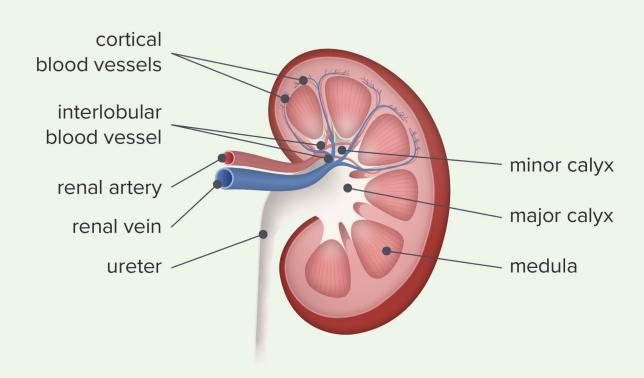
Kidneys remove waste from the body

Kidneys maintain a constant amount of fluid in the body.

Kidneys maintain electrolyte levels.



## **Kidney Anatomy**



Coherence Omitting extraneous words, images & sounds

Signaling Highlighting essential material and directing attention by using cues

Redundancy Avoiding the use of text that duplicates narration

Improve learning by

 Spatial Contiguity Placing images and corresponding text close to each other in space

Temporal Contiguity Presenting images and corresponding text simultaneously

Maver's Multimedia Learning Principles

#### Manage **Essential Processing**

Segmenting

Chunking multimedia lessons in smaller sections

Pre-training

Introducing main concepts and key terms before the lesson/class

**└** Modality

Using images and narration when possible and adding text ONLY in certain circumstances

#### Foster **Generative Processing**

 Multimedia Presenting words and corresponding images together, rather than just words alone

 Personalization Speaking in conversational language and tone

Voice Using an appealing human voice over a computer-synthesized one

Image Strategically using the narrator's image on the screen

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Improve learning

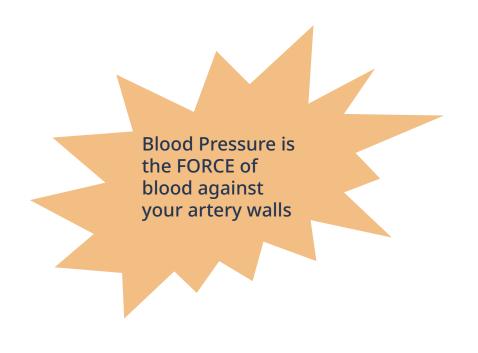
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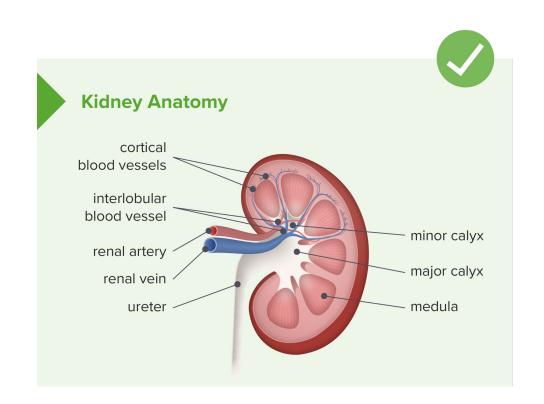
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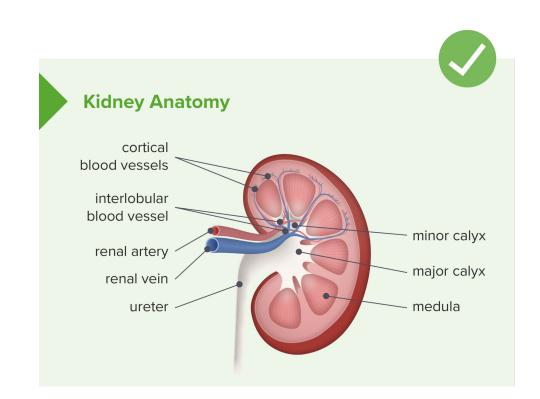
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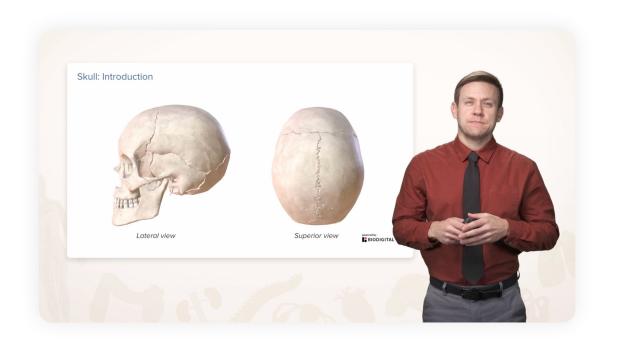
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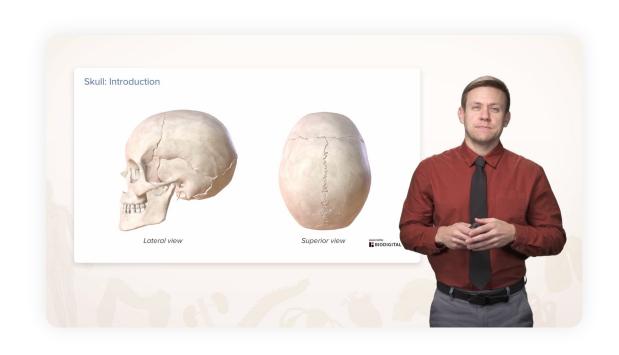
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Improve learning



Beyond multimedia learning

## cognitive load theory

# Cognitive load theory in health professional education: design principles and strategies

Jeroen J G van Merriënboer<sup>1,2</sup> & John Sweller<sup>3</sup>

Managing intrinsic load

Optimising germane load

Decreasing extraneous load

Goal-free principle

"What is the correct diagnosis?"

"What are the possible diagnoses?"

Worked example principle

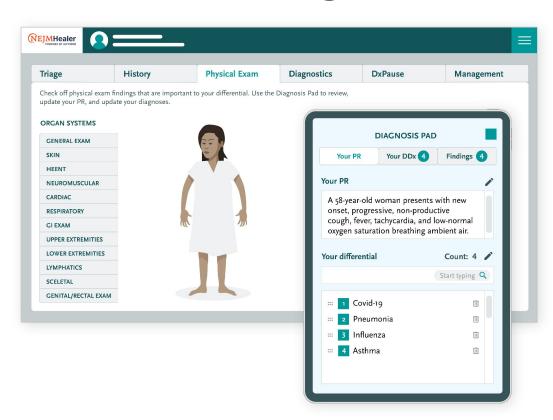
"See the patient and come up with a treatment plan"

"What do you think of this treatment plan?"

Completion principle

"See the patient and come up with a treatment plan"

"See the patient and come up with a differential diagnosis"



Completion principle

Split attention principle

#### **Managing Intrinsic Load**

Simple-to-complex

Which of the following is a symptom of hypertension?

A 50-year old patient comes in with chest pain...

**Element interactivity** 

#### **Managing Intrinsic Load**

Low-to-high fidelity

Text-based problems

Real life patient interaction

#### **Optimizing Germane Load**

"Desirable difficulty"

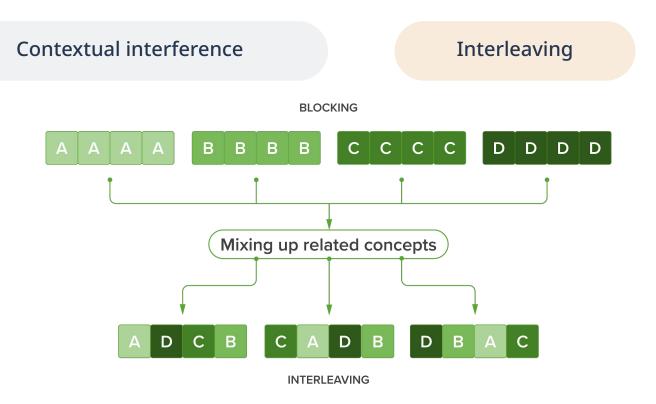
Variability principle

Contextual interference

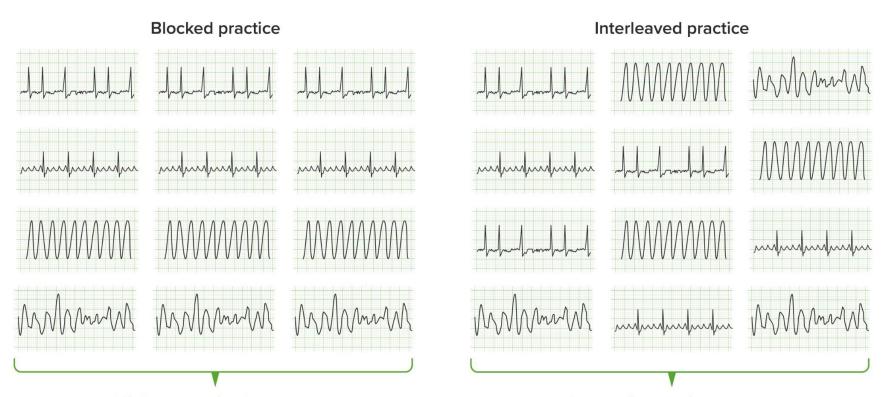
# Optimizing Germane Load Variability principle

- Apply concepts through different contexts
- Encourages learners to construct cognitive schemas
- When discussing hyponatremia, use cases of different etiologies: hypovolemic patient, SIADH, heart failure, etc.
- Helps learners determine the range of applicability of constructed schemas

#### **Optimizing Germane Load**

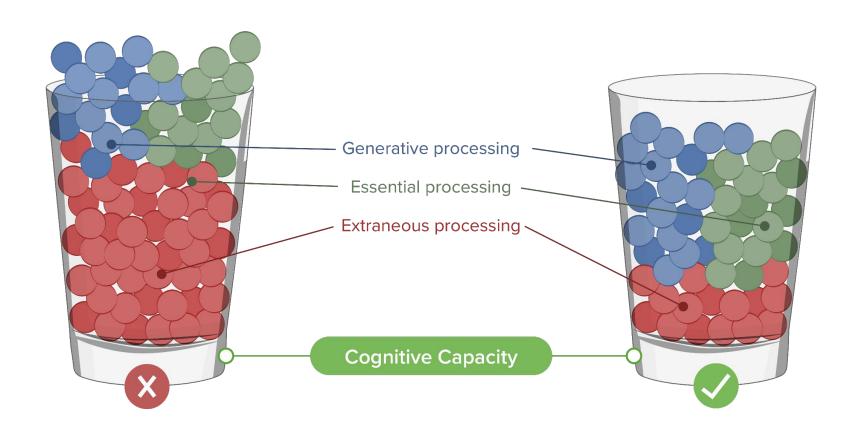


### **Optimizing Germane Load**



Higher perceived mastery

Better diagnostic accuracy

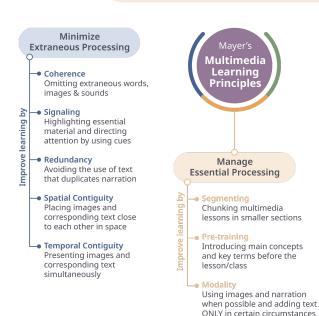


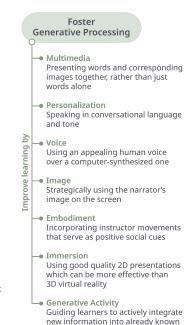
#### **Cognitive Load Theory in different Contexts**

#### Instructional methods

- Decrease extraneous load
  - Goal-free principle
  - Completion principle
  - Split-attention principle
- Manage intrinsic load
  - Simple-to-complex
  - Low-to-high fidelity
- Optimize germane load
  - Variability principle
  - Contextual interference

#### **Educational tools**





concepts

#### **Practical Considerations**

- What is the best way to deliver certain content? Is it a presentation?
- Other factors for effective presentations
  - o 5/5/5 rule
  - Short presentations
- Remember your choice of delivery must be aligned with your objectives (not too many objectives!)
- Optimise germane load by utilizing principles of active learning
  - Quizzes
  - Discussion
  - Group work
- Regardless of how you are currently doing things, there is always room for improvement



#### **Questions**

Are you maximizing your students' intrinsic cognitive load?

What is one thing you can do to decrease extraneous cognitive load?

What is one strategy you will use to foster germane load?

### Are You Interested in Our Future Events?

**Learning Science Webinar:** 

## **Preparing Your Students for Exam Success**

Louise Jones, PhD, MEd

Thursday, September 12

Scan the QR code to register!











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Lecturio Partnership Team institutions@lecturio.com

