

Learning Tip:

Keys to Productive Group Study Sessions

Dr. Gary Au
au@math.usask.ca

University of Saskatchewan

Keys to Productive Group Study Sessions

Group study sessions can be highly effective! But they can also be a total time waster if mismanaged.

Some good ingredients of a productive group study session:

1. **Set a Clear Objective:** E.g., “Solve Problems 1-8 on this practice exam.”
2. **Limit Size & Time:** Smaller groups (2-4 people) and fixed time (1-2 hours) keep engagement high.
3. **Prework:** Clear distribution of preparation work (e.g., solutions to present, questions to address, shared resources to bring) for the study session.
4. **Defined Roles:** Rotate concise roles during the session to maintain structure. E.g.,
 - ▶ Moderator: Keeps time and follows the agenda.
 - ▶ Presenter: Explains a prepared solution or concept.
 - ▶ Scribe: Records key results and any action items.

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Some good ingredients of a productive group study session (continued):

5. Accountability & Follow-Up: At the end of the session, assign actionable items among group members and plan for the next meeting.

6. Maintain Productive Norms:

- ▶ Come prepared and arrive on time.
- ▶ Ensure balanced participation and contributions among group.
- ▶ No unrelated device use; mute notifications.
- ▶ Call out tangent drift and return to the agenda.

Group study is a partnership — when it works it multiplies learning. But if it consistently fails the basics, don't force it — study solo or find a better group.