

8 Ways to Know You Need a Tutor

by Robyn Tellefsen

You've got a lot to learn, but you're so accustomed to figuring things out for yourself that hiring a tutor seems unfathomable. Of course, there's something to be said for independence and perseverance. But how do you know when it's time to call in the big guns and hire a tutor? Let's count the ways.

1. You're not keeping up.

If, no matter how hard you try, you just can't seem to keep pace with the rest of your class, a tutor could be just what you need to make sense of the material. An experienced tutor will provide extra help with hard-to-grasp concepts and help you catch up to your peers.

2. You're bored in class.

On the other side of the coin, when a subject comes naturally to you, a traditional class might become so boring that you lose your desire to learn. A tutor can offer academic enrichment to keep your interest and stimulate you to learn even more than you already do.

3. You're dying to learn something new.

Sometimes the very thing that excites you is not taught at your school. Rather than trying to learn it all on your own, you can hire a tutor to provide the instruction you need to nurture your passion.

4. Writing feels like torture.

Consider it a red flag if you break into a sweat whenever your teacher gives you a writing assignment. When you hire a tutor, he or she can review your papers and teach you specific ways to improve your writing. This outside perspective is a valuable resource that can make the writing process much less stressful.

5. You want to get ahead.

Whether you want to enhance your office skills, get a jumpstart on a new subject or a new academic year, or just move to the head of your class, a tutor can give you the edge you seek.

6. Your test scores are tanking.

You don't have to hide behind the "I'm not a good test taker" excuse anymore. If your test results don't match your knowledge of the material, a tutor can teach you strategies to help you translate the information in your head into the right answers on a test.

7. You don't know how to study.

Admit it -- when your teacher tells you to study for an upcoming exam, you have no idea what that really means. A tutor can teach you methods of good note-taking, organization, and review so that you can maximize retention and perform well in all your classes.

8. You're losing sleep over school.

If you spend hours and hours studying and you don't sleep, you're actually diminishing your ability to learn new material and retain the old. A tutor can show you how to manage your time and utilize as much of your brain as possible in order to work smart and feel good.

Everyone can benefit from a tutor in one skill area or another. No matter who you are and what you need, tutoring services are available -- all you have to do is ask.