

Get the most out of English retrieval practice

Educake English is your helpful assistant when it comes to creating retrieval practice routines for your students. For example, it can support students' recall of plot details in Macbeth while you devote your expertise to helping them structure a literary analysis.

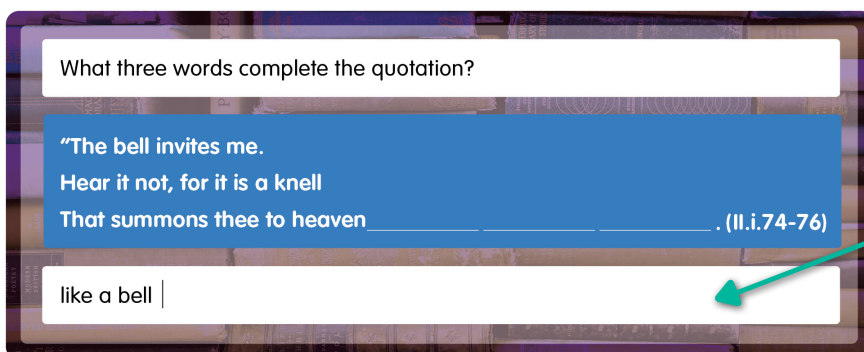
Educake English is ideal for long-term learning

Educake helps with each of the pillars of retrieval practice: **active learning**, **feedback**, **spaced repetition** and **interleaving**. Retrieval practice is about active learning – helping students externalise what they know rather than passively absorbing information.

Educake is designed around the principles of **active learning** through formative assessment. When students complete a quiz in Educake, they must actively demonstrate what they know in a low-pressure environment. And because thousands of questions have been designed in advance, it's easy for teachers to create tasks that reactivate and reinforce students' knowledge.

“ It is likely to have a real impact on students' progress by providing endless opportunities for retrieval practice. ”
David Didau, Teach Secondary Awards 2019

Feedback is crucial to effective retrieval practice, since students need to know whether what they've recalled is accurate. That way, they learn what to do differently next time.



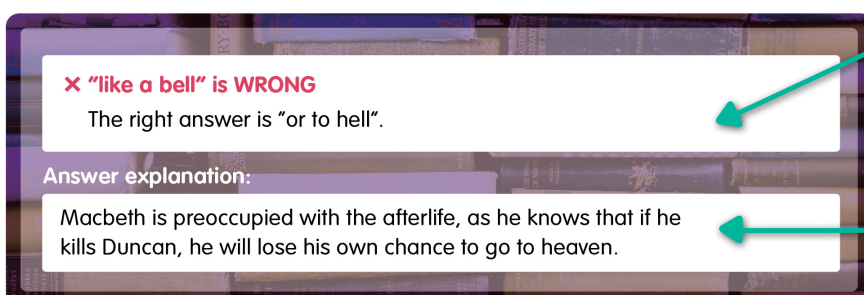
What three words complete the quotation?

“The bell invites me.
Hear it not, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven _____ . (II.i.74-76)

like a bell |

Typed answers require active recall from students.

Because Educake provides instant feedback, students can immediately correct any misconceptions.



× “like a bell” is **WRONG**

The right answer is “or to hell”.

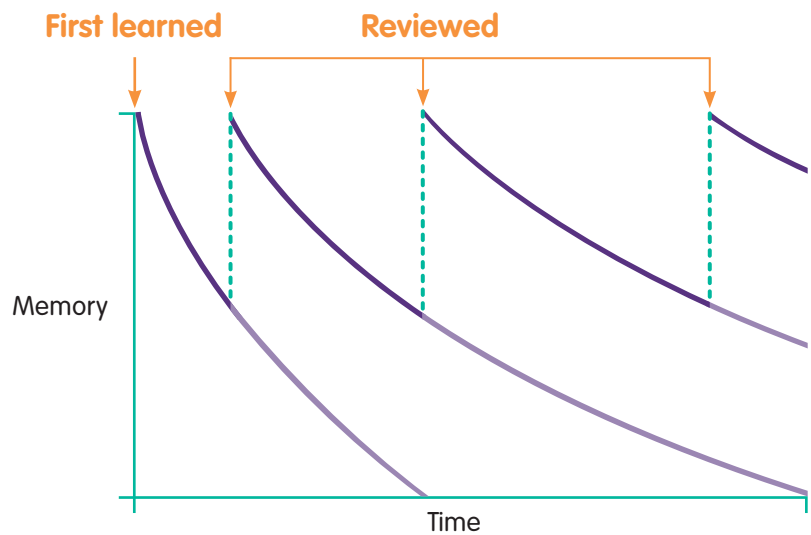
Answer explanation:

Macbeth is preoccupied with the afterlife, as he knows that if he kills Duncan, he will lose his own chance to go to heaven.

Answers are put into context, so students progress from recall to understanding.

Spaced repetition is an effective, evidence-based technique that gets students to recall information repeatedly, with the interval between repetitions increasing. It's especially powerful because, whether they answer the question correctly or not, with each repetition, this understanding is more firmly cemented in students' long-term memory.

Educake makes it easy to set up spaced repetition routines, since you can schedule tests in advance or have students revisit earlier tests. Some teachers use Educake as a lesson starter by having students complete a quiz on the spot, or by reviewing the results of previous homework at the front of the class.



The forgetting curve

“ Educake is great for reminding me of the importance of revisiting things like literary terms and word classes before the forgetting curve kicks in. ”

Interleaving (switching between topics while learning or revising) allows students to create links in their own understanding and distinguish between concepts. This is especially important for English, since students need to be able to call upon a broad network of skills and knowledge when faced with an essay-style question.

With Educake, teachers are free to mix and match questions from different topics in whatever way works for them and their students. A single quiz can draw from multiple subjects areas, or students can complete a series of short, diverse quizzes for homework.

“ I find it really useful to cover KS4 texts and use as an interleaving exercise. I set a different poem each week in the spring term for extra interleaving, for example. ”