

1 **Howie**

2 [00:18:14.13]

3 I: You said that you're helping your friends, how did that start up?

4 H: I took a bunch of physics courses in high school and prettymuch me and two other guys and
5 my roommate I went to school with and me him and one other guy we know all took the same
6 physics courses, but because for engineering majors the physics courses like Physics C don't
7 count for them, they have to retake them. So my roommate is actually about as good as I was at
8 it so just occasionally the,- like, he would be working on something and if he was having trouble
9 remembering a concept or whatever I'd help him out. Everybody else though is a bit rustier at it
10 so I just, as, I just offered my help if I saw they needed it or not. That was prettymuch it.

11 I: How often would you say that this happened?

12 H: Um, it was pretty frequent with my roommate. Some of the- cause, the physics concepts were
13 being used to relate into the mechanics they were learning so it was a little bit more abstract
14 thinking than what we were both used to. So I just kinda, I guess half act like a sounding wall.
15 Just bounce ideas off each other until we kinda worked through it. It happens a lot more this
16 semester, than the other ones. More with some of the other people, than him cause the mechanics
17 has gotten far enough away from the physics now that I'm not as much of a help to him.
18 Occasionally there'll be like a stress problem or something like that I can tag in on but other than
19 that.

20 [00:33:06.26]

21 I: I heard you say earlier that when you talk to your roommate sometimes you're like a sounding
22 board for him. Can you say a little more what you meant by that?

23 H: Yeah. Um, he knows, we both know that I don't understand much of any of the mechanics
24 that he's in now. He's in one of the upper level mechanics courses. But I prettymuch sit there
25 and have him talk to me about the concepts that they've learned recently and just what the
26 problem is asking. And if I hear something that could in any way shape or form be related to the
27 problem, I'll mention it and he'll either explain why it doesn't have to involve it or why it
28 possibly could. We do that a little bit until he runs into an idea that might work for the problem.
29 He tries it and if it works, then we're good. If not, then we kinda go back to the same idea. Until
30 we can at least come to some kind of idea of what to work with. But um, that's prettymuch the
31 job. He does it occasionally. I just like some of the fun facts that I've learned so far, just the
32 interesting statistical data. So as I read something from one of my textbooks I just kinda blurt it
33 out. It helps me remember it a little bit better and usually it's just something interesting to hear.
34 But uh, prettymuch how we help each other now that we're as far apart coursewise as almost
35 possible.

36 **Britney**

37 [00:14:53.09]

38 I: Do you work in groups outside of things that are assigned in your classes?

39 B: I do study groups sometimes. It feels really effective but based on my test scores, it's, I guess
40 not as effective. It's me and a few of my friends that study for Calc. And we studied for like, a

ridic- like seven hours or something, and we were just going, we did all the problems in the book and like everything and then like, when the test rolled around it was like, none of it was the same. So, it wasn't very effective but at the time it felt like I understood the material, which was kinda, kind of ironic cause I didn't do as well, so in that circumstance it was really effective to do groupwork but I remember Last semester i was studying for math and it was prettymuch it was me and three of the people and then I felt like I ended up just teaching them rather than actually learning so I didn't perform as well on that test. So I guess it depends on who you're working with. But, Those are the only groups I really worked with.

[00:21:28.28]

I: Among these sets of groups, I've been hearing you say, like, strategy. I'm not sure I know what you mean by that. So maybe, like, do you have an example of a strategy?

B: Yeah like with our current calc group we have like, we're like, okay we're gonna first we're gonna do all the practice problems then we're gonna do the quiz. And then If we're lacking in one area versus the other then we'll go back and do more questions like that. So, that's what I kinda think of a like a strategy, like a gameplan. Cause, we're like, we know what we want to do and how it's going to help us on the test. Does that answer your question?

I: Yeah, so how did you guys come up with that?

B: The first time we got together we just kindof we're like, oh what resources do we have? So we just looked at our resources, and were like, oh, it'd probably be most helpful to us if we just start working on the problems and once we finish a particular section then we can see how thats going to be applied on the test. So we're not just doing useless problems that aren't gonna help us. So I guess that's how it developed. Through the resources that we were given.

Joey

[00:27:36.18]

I: you said you came to realize that working in groups was a good thing. Did you figure it out over the course of your experiences in last semester?

J: Yeah, it was actually Physics 171, once it started picking up, and moving into material I had never learned before, I got together with some of the people- there were two kids on my floor that took it. And uh, we just started studying together and I kinda realized I was learning a lot more than I ever could just reading through the book on my own. And like, when I didn't understand something most of the time they would understand better than I would, or if they didn't then I would help explain it. And actually teaching, I feel like helped me learn a lot better. So, that was when I kindof realized and then I started applying that to my other classes.

I: So, in this group or maybe some of your other groups, how do you, what kinds of things happen in the groups? I guess I'm wondering do you guys show up having done the homework and want to study? or like, do you go through the homework together?

J: Umm, it kinda depends group to group. But most of the time we've looked over, in general, looked over what we have to do. And if you can do something right off the bat, like homework problem was, then you just do that. If you have like, even a slight struggle with it, just bring it to the group and work it out together, see if somebody else understands the concept a lot better and

81 then work through it like that. Or if there's an exam, we all, like designate different sections to
82 kind of like make a study guide for. \oh, interesting\ Then we all come together and throw the
83 study guide all together and then run through it. And have each person almost like present, their
84 section.

85 I: How did that process happen?

86 J: That just- I don't know, one of my friends in Biology study group, he said that's what he's been
87 doing, he's a sophomore, and he said he started doing that second semester freshman year. And I
88 think it's one of the best, one of the best ways. Because you become really really good with your
89 section and then you hear everybody elses' expertise. So it helps out a lot.

90 **Chris**

91 I: When you work in groups for your physics classes what kinds of things are you guys doing in
92 the group? Like is it mainly homework or studying?

93 C: Uhm, I mean, unless there's a test in the coming week, it's mainly just doing the homework
94 set. Most of them are pretty long so it keeps us busy for awhile. It's good to work in groups to get
95 other people's perspective. Cause you might be missing something obvious and they might point
96 it out immediately so you don't spend the 20 to 25 minutes of just looking at the problem and not
97 knowing how to approach it. So you kindof balance out each other's weaknesses and it helps to
98 get everyone to understand what's going on and the problem sets done.

99 I: How did this group- Is it sort of like a group you meet with every week at the same time?

100 C: Mmmhmm. How did it form?

101 I: Yeah.

102 C: Actually, it was a girl, she was also in my astro class last semester, so she walked to the front
103 of our physics class last semester and asked if people in astro and physics wanted to start a study
104 group. So that was kinda how it was born and now it's just- mainly it's just me and her but
105 occasionally there's a couple of other people that come.

106 [00:08:19.17]

107 I: Okay, cool. What about last semester? Did you study in groups...?

108 C: Last semester mainly for physics. Calc I met with kids a couple times but not nearly as
109 frequently. Calc is slightly harder because the lecture hall is so big that if you don't arrive at an
110 early time every day you're sitting next to random people and I'm not really one to go out of my
111 way to make friends with people. If people approach me, yeah I'll be nice and everything but
112 I'm not going out and trying to find study groups.