CONSORTIUM NATIONAL DE FORMATION EN SANTÉ
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# The process of activating prior knowledge

In order to store new information, the trainee calls on his existing neural networks, also called scripts (Knowles *et al.*, 2015).

You can compare these networks to small drawers containing the trainee's prior knowledge.

In a learning situation, the trainee's brain is looking for the drawer where he will classify the new information (Knowles *et al.*, 2015).

This is what is called the **process of activating prior knowledge** (Hailikari, 2009, as quoted by Tardif, 2016). As the trainee increasingly activates his prior knowledge, it will become consolidated, accessible, modified and reorganized based on his interpretation of the learning situation (Hailikari, 2009, as quoted by Tardif, 2016).

The trainee may find it difficult to identify his prior knowledge. By knowing your trainee's profile, you can help him connect, interpret, analyze and reflect on the context, his past experiences and prior knowledge in order for him to select the appropriate drawer.

Activating the trainee's prior knowledge will help you to optimize his learning.