Gemini flashcard app setup checklist

Tick each step as you go. It follows the guide on building a free flashcard maker with the Gemini API free tier.

Before you start

- I am 18 or over (Google's API terms require this)
- Python is installed and I can run python in a terminal
- Anki is installed, if I want to review cards there
- My lecture PDFs are in one folder, for example lectures/

Get a free API key

- Signed in to Google AI Studio (a personal Google account is simplest)
- Chose "Get API key" and created a key in a new project
- Checked on the Projects page that the project's tier says Free
- Opened the rate limit page to see my limits for each model
- Saved the key as the environment variable GEMINI_API_KEY
- Ran pip install google-genai pydantic
- The key is not in any file I push to GitHub

Build the flashcard maker

- Saved the script as make_cards.py
- Set MODEL to a Flash model my project lists as free
- Ran python make_cards.py lectures cards.csv
- Read through cards.csv and deleted any card that doesn't match my slides
- Imported cards.csv into Anki with File, then Import, using the Basic note type

Add spaced repetition (optional)

- Saved the scheduler as leitner.py
- Run python leitner.py cards.csv once a day
- Remember: right moves a card up one box, wrong sends it back to box 1

Box	Next review
1	Tomorrow
2	In 2 days
3	In 4 days
4	In 8 days
5	In 16 days

Stay inside the free limits

- Make cards once per lecture, straight after it
- Keep the pause between files in the script
- On a 429 RESOURCE_EXHAUSTED error, wait a minute or until the daily reset, then move finished PDFs out of the folder and rerun with a new output file, such as cards2.csv, so existing cards aren't overwritten
- Split very long PDFs into chapters
- Remember extra keys in the same project share one allowance
- Daily limits reset at midnight Pacific time (8am UK for most of the year)

Keep notes private

- Upload only my own lecture slides and notes
- Leave out other people's personal details
- Keep decks made from lecture materials to myself
- Check my university's AI guidance

Prefer not to code? Medly turns your uploaded lecture notes, slides and essays into flashcard decks, practice papers and marked questions. Try it free at medlyai.com.