Academic good practice: avoiding collusion

In addition to looking at this information sheet, you must read the university’s web page on Academic Misconduct: http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/undergraduate/discipline/academic-misconduct
Ask your Personal Tutor or other academic if you are not completely clear about everything it says.

What is collusion?
The university web page (URL above) defines collusion as “Collusion is a form of plagiarism. It is an unauthorised and unattributed collaboration of students in a piece of assessed work.”
In other words, if you and another student or students submit work that you have done jointly (or in part jointly) when it should be each student’s individual work, this is considered to be cheating. The same applies if different students do separate parts of an assignment and put them together.

Some tips for avoiding collusion

- Never allow anyone to do all or part of your work for you.
- Never copy another student’s work or part of another student’s work.
  - Do not try to disguise this by making some changes.
- Never pretend another person’s data or results are your own.
- Never allow anyone to copy your work or use your data – this is also collusion and you can be penalised for doing so.

Group assignments

- If you are given a group assignment, be absolutely clear about what is expected from each person and the way in which you should do the work for your assignment.
  - If you are not sure, ask the academic who teaches you.

Group discussion and talking about topics and assignments

- Students are often asked to discuss or work together on things relating to their assignments in tutorials – this generates ideas and helps to deepen understanding.
  - If you are unsure about how to relate these activities to your individual work, talk to the person who teaches you or to your Personal Tutor.
- Students often talk about their work in other contexts outside class – again, if you are unsure about how to relate these activities to your individual work, talk to the person who teaches you or to your Personal Tutor.
- There may be circumstances where you want to include something said by another student:
  - ask the person teaching you and then find out the correct referencing format – search the Cite them right referencing guide online: http://www.citethemrightonline.com/