Memorising Tools – Mnemonics Techniques

Mnemonics are memorising tools that help us recall larger pieces of information, especially in the form of lists like characteristics, steps, stages, parts, phases, etc.

We knew back in 1967 from a study by Gerald R. Miller that mnemonics increased recall. He found that students who regularly used mnemonic devices _increased test scores up to 77%!_

Many types of mnemonics exist and which type works best is limited only by the imagination of each individual learner. There are many types of mnemonics: **Music, Name, Expression/Word, Model, Ode/Rhyme, Image, Connection** and **Spelling Mnemonics.**

Music Mnemonics

How many lyrics to songs do you remember?

How did you come to remember them?

The same method you used to recall song lyrics also can work just as well in academics. Music can used to help students recall important details to main ideas and many learners have made songs out of information when a list of items must be learned. Advertising on radio and TV uses music to help potential customers remember their products when shopping. With sufficient repetition of commercials, advertisers have discovered that when shoppers see their product in the stores that often the shopper will start reciting a oft repeated phrases from the commercial or start singing the lyrics to the promotion melody. The results has been increased sales of the product.

You can make a song or jingle using any type of music you choose for any list of items. **Music Mnemonics** work best with long lists. For example, some children learn the ABC's by singing the "ABC" song. Other children learn all the states in alphabetical order using the "50 Nifty United States" song

Name Mnemonics

Name Mnemonic is the 1st letter of each word in a list of items is used to make a name of a person or thing. Sometimes, the items can be rearranged to form a more recollect-able name mnemonic.

Examples:
ROY G. BIV = colours of the spectrum (**R**ed, **O**range, **Y**ellow, **G**reen, **B**lue, **I**ndigo, **V**iolet.)
Pvt. Tim Hall = Essential amino acids
(**P**henylanine, **V**aline, **T**hreonine, **T**ryptophan, **I**soleucine, **H**istidine, **A**rginine, **L**eucine, **L**ysine.

Expression or Word Mnemonic

This is by far the most popularly used mnemonic. To make an **Expression or Word** mnemonic, the first letter of each item in a list is arranged to form a fun/unusual phrase or sentence

Examples:
For physical laws dealing with gasses, try these:

Charles' Law: For a constant volume, pressure is directly proportional to temperature.
The simple way to remember Chuck is if the tank's too hot, you're blown into muck.

Henry's Law: The solubility of a gas increases with pressure.
To remember good old Hank, remember the bubbles in the shaken Coke you drank.

Boyles' Law: At constant temperature, pressure is inversely proportional to volume.
Boyle's law is best of all because it presses gasses awfully small.

In English, the 7 coordinating conjunctions are **F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o = **FANBOYS**.

The order of operations for math is **P**arentheses, **E**xponents, **M**ultiply, **D**ivide, **A**dd, and **S**ubtract = **Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally**.

The categories in the classification of life are **K**ingdom, **P**hylum, **C**lass, **O**rder, **F**amily, **G**enus, Species, **V**ariety = **Kings Play Cards On Fairly Good Soft Velvet**.

For those who have to remember the order of colour coding on electronic resistors: **Black,Blue, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Brown, Violet, Gray, White, Silver, Gold.**

Bad **B**oys **R**ile **O**ur **Y**oung **G**irls, **B**ut **V**iolet **G**ives **W**elts (to) **S**illy **G**uys
or
Bad **B**eer **R**ots **O**ur **Y**oung **G**uts **B**ut **V**odka **G**oes **W**ell (in) **S**ilver **G**oblets.

Almost every anatomy class has to remember the eight small bones in the wrist: **Navicular, Lunate, Triquetrum,Pisiform, Multongular (Greater), Multongular (Lesser), Capitate, Hamate.**

Never **L**ick **T**illy's **P**opsicle, **M**other **M**ight **C**ome **H**ome.

Create an **Expression Mnemonic** for remembering the order of the planets from the sun outward: **M**ercury, **V**enus, **E**arth,**M**ars, **J**upiter, **S**aturn, **U**ranus, **N**eptune, and **P**luto.

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Model Mnemonics

In a **Model Mnemonic**, some type of representation is constructed to help with understanding and recalling important information.

Examples include a circular sequence model, a pyramid model of stages, a pie chart, and a 5-box sequence. Models should be used in addition to words and lists because they make recall at test time much easier.

Ode or Rhyme Mnemonics

An **Ode or Rhyme Mnemonic** puts information in the form of a poem. Examples include:

A commonly used **Rhyme Mnemonic** for the number of days in each month is:
30 days hath September, April, June, and November.
All the rest have 31
Except February my dear son.
It has 28 and that is fine
But in Leap Year it has 29.

You'd probably prefer your doctor to know the difference between cyanate and cyanide: **Cyanate "I ate"** and **Cyanide "I died."** Cyanide is a little fatal.

Remember this one? **In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.**

How is your spelling?
I before e except after c
or when sounding like a
in neighbour and weigh

Here is an easy way to remember the nerves: olfactory, optic, oculomotor, trochlear, trigeminal, abducens, facial, acoustic, glassopharyngeal, vagus, spinal accessory and hypoglossal.

On Old Olympus' Towering Tops, A Finn And German Viewed Some Hops