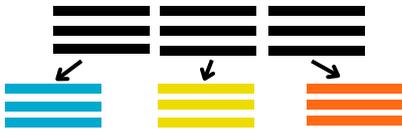


Mnemonic Devices

Mnemonic devices are memory techniques that improve one's ability to recall information. They rely on recognizing patterns, condensing information, and building associations between concepts.

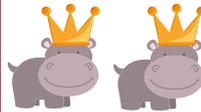
Types of Mnemonic Devices

Chunking: Group large amounts of information into smaller, more manageable chunks.



Stories: Connect sequences and relationships to other logical concepts or invented stories.

Example:



To remember features of the hippocampus I imagine two hippo queens seated at the centre of their kingdom. They have amazing geographical knowledge and all newcomers are presented for them to decide if they can stay.

Acronyms and acrostics: Create a new word or sentence with the first letter of a series of words or concepts.

Examples:



Line notes on a treble stave:

Every **g**ood
boy **d**eserves
fudge



Stages of Cell Division: IPMAT

- Interphase
- Prophase
- Metaphase
- Anaphase
- Telophase

Use **alliteration, rhyme and song** to create memorable word associations.

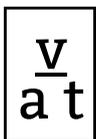
Example:

"Do what you oughta, add acid to wata (water)" reminds us of laboratory safety when diluting acids.



Models and images: Use or create an image that conveys relationships of ideas.

Example:



The relationship between velocity (v), acceleration (a) and time (t) can be presented using this model. Covering the unknown variable gives the formula using the remaining variables.

Method of loci: Visualize a well-known place. Map images and concepts as you move through the space.

Example:

For my philosophy class, I assign each philosopher to a different room of my childhood home. 'Moving' through the house, I come across them in chronological order. I 'place' items that remind me of their specific ideas and concepts throughout their rooms.



Pro tip: Mnemonic devices that tie to emotion, especially disgust, shock, or amusement, are often the most effective. Have fun with it!



To learn more, book a one-on-one coaching appointment or attend a Learning Skills Workshop!
Visit www.smu.ca/studentsuccess
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