



HOW TO INCORPORATE MNEMONICS IN YOUR WEB COURSE

This guide will introduce you to the strategy of mnemonics as a means to enhance your students' retention.

Definition

Mnemonics are one of powerful instructional strategies used to enhance learners' retention. Mnemonics are also called an artificial device for facilitating a learner's recall of facts, definitions, and concepts. They are most useful when learners are faced with a lot of difficult instructional materials.

Instead of feeding information to the learners, the instructor can present mnemonic techniques, and ask them to develop their own mnemonic to help them remember the information.

Types

Organizational Mnemonics: involve using information you already know to help learn new information.

- **Single Use:** aid in memorizing of one target and work well when order is important.

Acronyms

Examples:

HOMES (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior)

ROY G. BIV (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet)

Rhymes

Examples:

30 days hath September ...

"i" before "e" except after "c" ...

Phrases

Examples:

My very earnest mother just served us nine pizzas (for the planets)

Spring forward, fall back.

- **Multiple Use:** it can be used to memorize many targets.

Peg-word method

Involves use of counting from one to ten to remember new info. Uses interactive mental imagery – associating a cue with a target memory in a single image.

Like having pegs on a wall to hang coats, you can go retrieve coats off the peg.

Likewise, with the peg-word method, you can retrieve items to be remembered.

Example:

One is a bun; two is a shoe; three is a tree; etc.

Method of Loci

Method of locations

Uses sequence of locations that are already known

To remember items, we must picture ourselves walking through the various locations, depositing objects to be remembered in each location – a clear image must be created for each item.

To recall the items, once again, we imagine ourselves walking through locations, retrieving the items.

Encoding Mnemonics

- **Name mnemonic:** a single use device for remembering names.

Example:

Relating a feature (real or imagined) of a person's appearance with sounds in the person's name.

- **Keyword mnemonic:** uses mental imagery to help people learn unfamiliar vocabulary items.

Example:

Rodilla, Byelie, Zdaniyeh, chai

***For further assistance, contact the Innovation in Learning Center at (251) 461-1888.**