

# Mnemonic Devices



- What are they?
  - Tricks used to help memory
- Peg-Word System
  - Memorize the following list of words and then associate each word with an item you want to remember.
    - 1 is a bun
    - 2 is a shoe
    - 3 is a tree
    - 4 is a door
    - 5 is a hive
    - 6 is sticks
    - 7 is heaven
    - 8 is a gate
    - 9 is a line
    - 10 is a hen
  - This has personally helped me remember events on timelines and words on a vocabulary list
  - For example, if you want to remember a grocery list with butter, milk, and eggs, you can think of buttering a bun, pouring milk in a shoe, and bird eggs in a tree.
  - **Now, try it yourself.** Use the peg-word system to memorize the following list of words: eyeball, cucumber, cheese, newspaper, toothpaste, spoon, soap, basketball, prison, and cherry.
- Acronym
  - A word formed from the 1<sup>st</sup> letters in a name or phrase
  - For example, to remember the Great Lakes, you can take the first letter of each lake to make the word **HOMES**:
    - H**uron
    - O**ntario
    - M**ichigan
    - E**rie
    - S**uperior



- Rhymes

- Rhymes are easy to remember phrases that can also help learn bits of information.
- “In fourteen hundred and ninety-two  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.”



- Method of Loci

- Visually associate a familiar place with a list of things to be remembered.
- With the grocery list from the peg-word system, you can picture yourself in your yard with a swimming pool full of milk, butter melting in the hot sun, and a bird nest with eggs nearby.
- Now, try memorizing: pizza, ice cream, turkey, hot-dog, yogurt, and bagels.



- Making a story

- Another helpful way to memorize things is to create a story from the list of things to be remembered.
- For example, imagine you had to memorize the following list of words: car, prison, tree, mouse, and watch. You can create a story, like this:
  - Joe got in his car to visit his mouse in prison. On his way, he looked down to see what time his watch said, when he swerved and accidentally hit a tree.

For further tips on improving memory, refer to Nicole and Aaron’s awesome section on the serial position effect.