

## Serial Position Effect



People remember the last and first items in a list better than they do those in the middle.

### **SO WHAT?**

When you are given a list of vocab words to memorize, you'll probably be able to remember the first and last words on the list easiest, so you should concentrate hardest on learning words in the middle.

Meyers, David G., Psychology: Seventh Ed. In Modules, P. 346

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## Rehearsal



To learn those vocab words, you need to rehearse. Rehearsing is basically just repeating the stuff, out loud or to yourself. Writing it down works pretty well, too. Try repeating the words and their definitions over and over again. Even after you learn it, keep repeating it every couple days and you won't even have to study for the final!

### **SO WHAT?**

You might think of math as a bunch of meaningless facts and figures, and rehearsal is perfect for memorizing that kind of stuff. Just repeat equations over and over again and you'll be okay.

Practice: Memorize this list of words. Remember to concentrate on the words in the middle!

Tomato	Eggplant
Potato	Asparagus
Corn	Green Beans
Cucumber	Carrot
Convertible	Artichoke

Now cover over the list & see how many words you can remember!

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Did you remember the words in the middle?  
Did you remember words that weren't there?  
Did you remember Convertible?

Keep repeating this stuff over and over and you'll get the idea. If you need more help, go to Wayne's section to learn about Mnemonic Devices, a very helpful memory trick.

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