

Introduction:

Learning takes time. Very few people have photographic memories. Learning requires repetition- meaningful repetition. This is why active study techniques are so vitally important. The "recording disk" of the brain accepts new material much faster if it "hears," "sees," "feels," "tastes," and detects motion (kinetic energy) during input or recording time. Then too, the more times around the learning circuit, the longer lasting the impression.

Mnemonics:

Material that is difficult to master can be organized by finding the key words in each point, noting the first letter, and arranging the letters into a sense or nonsense word (the sillier, the better). Example:

Why did the U.S. enter World War I? (mnemonic answer: SPRENCZ)

S ubmarines, Germans lifted restrictions on use of
P ropaganda, British control of
R ussians overthrew the tsar
E conomic ties of U.S. with Britain and France
N eutrality, German violations of U.S.
C ultural ties with Britain
Z immerman telegram

Note: in the above example, a student has devised a mnemonic based on key words. If you have a basic understanding of each point, you ought to be able to write a complete essay from the mnemonic

Memory:

General points to consider:

You must focus your attention on whatever needs to be remembered. If you intend to remember something, you probably will.

You must be "sold" on the course. Why is this subject worth knowing?

The most important thing is to **overlearn** through repetition.

Association is a key to memory:

You remember approximately 10 percent of what you read.

You remember approximately 20 percent of what you hear.

You remember approximately 30 percent of what you see.

You remember approximately 50 percent of what you hear and see together.

You remember approximately 70 percent of what you say (if you think as you are saying it).

You remember approximately 90 percent of what you do.

