

Mnemonic Devices

Mnemonic devices are rhymes or sentences that aid one's memory. They can be especially effective to remember lists of items.

Mnemonic can have disadvantages. They may encourage superficial learning rather than in-depth learning. Students may forget the information quickly after a test. Use mnemonic devices sparingly, but as needed to recall information. Heavy use is inefficient.

Create your own mnemonics by assessing the information to be learned. Underline the first letter of item, then devise a word or phrase (nonsense or otherwise) using each letter underlined.

Types and Examples

Jingles

Days in each month = 30 days hath September, April, June and November...
Spelling generalizations = i before e except after c

Acronyms (catchwords)

Great Lakes = **HOMES** = Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior

Only spot in the U.S. where *you can* be in four states at once = **UCAN** = Utah, Colorado, Arizona, &