

Mnemonic Devices

Mnemonic devices are aids for improving one's memory. These devices can be much more efficient than rote memory techniques (learning by simple repetition). Mnemonic devices may be effective because they generally attach new information to be learned to old information already mastered, or to catch words or phrases that are more easily remembered.

Acronyms (catchwords)

Ex) The Great Lakes—"HOMES"

Huron, **O**ntario, **M**ichigan, **E**rie, **S**uperior

Ex) The only spot in the U.S. four where states meet—"CANU"

Colorado, **A**rizona, **N**ew Mexico, **U**tah

Acrostics (catch phrases)

Ex) The colors of the spectrum--"Roy G. Biv"

Red, **O**range, **Y**ellow, **G**reen, **B**lue, **I**ndigo, **V**iolet

Ex) The order of the planets from the sun—"My very educated mother just served us nachos"

Mercury **V**enus **E**arth **M**ars **J**upiter **S**aturn **U**ranus **N**eptune

Ex) The order of operations – "Please excuse my dear aunt Sally"

Parenthesis **E**xponents **M**ultiplication **D**ivision **A**ddition **S**ubtraction

Jingles

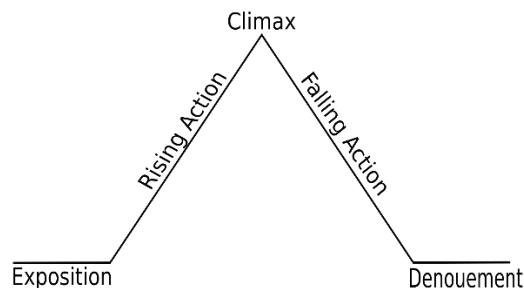
Ex) Days in each month—"Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November"

Ex) Spelling generalization—"i before e except after c"

Model Mnemonics

- Using images to remember ideas

Ex) The story arc's "mountain" shape illustrates how stories typically progress



Notetaking with Mnemonics

- While taking notes, use alliteration to facilitate recall. Alliteration occurs when words close to one another begin with the same letter or sound.

Ex) Take the first sound of the subject and then pick topics you want to relate- "In Biology you can study bacteria, beasts, beings, and botanicals."