

MNEMONICS

Mnemonics are strategies used to improve memory. They are most appropriate for memorizing lists and facts. There are a number of mnemonic strategies students may use to help them increase their memory. Four of the most common mnemonic strategies are: rhyme, acronym, abbreviation and acronym sentences.

1. Rhyme:

This is a simple mnemonic technique that most teachers have used at one time or another to help students remember information.

Example:

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November,
All the rest have thirty-one
Except February, which has twenty-eight.

2. Acronym:

An acronym is a word made from the first letter or first syllable of other words that one wants to remember. An acronym doesn't have to be a real word, but it must form a word that can be pronounced.

Example:

NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization

3. Abbreviation:

Like acronyms, this strategy uses the first letter of each word to be remembered, but these letters do not have to form a pronounceable word.

Example:

FBI — Federal Bureau of Investigation

3. Acronym Sentence:

In this strategy, sentences are made up of words that begin with the initial letter of the items to be remembered.

Example:

My (Mercury) very (Venus) earthly (Earthly) mother (Mars) just (Jupiter) served (Saturn) us (Uranus) nine (Neptune) pizzas (Pluto).