

Memorization Techniques



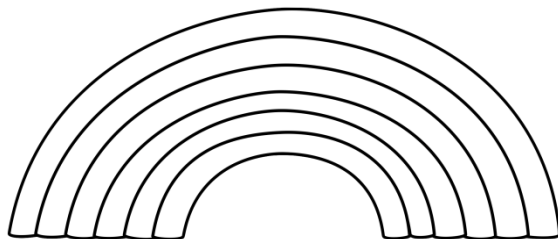
Memorization Techniques #1 – Name Mnemonics

Name mnemonics can be a game-changer when students need to memorize items in a specific order. Each letter in the name corresponds to the first letter of each item in the sequence.

To remember the colors of the rainbow in order.

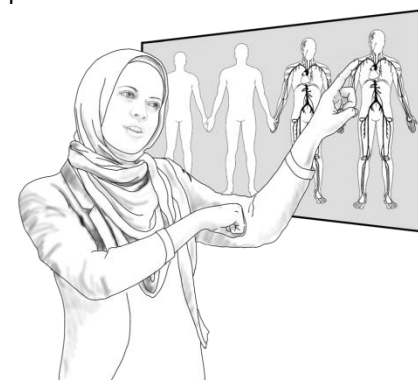
ROY G. BIV

- R:** Red
- O:** Orange
- Y:** Yellow
- G:** Green
- B:** Blue
- I:** Indigo
- V:** Violet



MRS GREN for the seven life processes:

- M:** Movement
- R:** Respiration
- S:** Sensitivity
- G:** Growth
- R:** Reproduction
- E:** Excretion
- N:** Nutrition



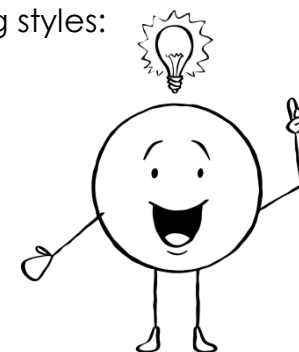
HOMER for remembering the five elements of story structure:

- H:** Hook
- O:** Overview
- M:** Main Events
- E:** Ending
- R:** Resolution



DUNCAN for the seven types of learning styles:

- D:** Dramatic
- U:** Understanding
- N:** Naturalistic
- C:** Concrete
- A:** Abstract
- N:** Non-linguistic



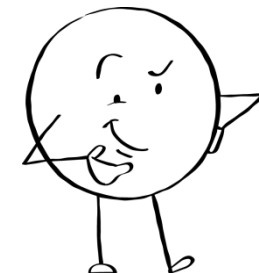
DREW for the first letters of U.S. State Capitals:

- D:** Denver (Colorado)
- R:** Richmond (Virginia)
- E:** Evansville (Indiana)
- W:** Washington, D.C.



SAM for remembering types of irony:

- S:** Situational
- A:** Ambiguous
- M:** Metaphorical




Memorization Techniques #2 – Acrostics/Sentence Mnemonics

Another method for memorizing sequences is using acrostics or sentence mnemonics. By converting the first letters of a list into a memorable sentence, students can more easily recall the information. Here are some popular examples:

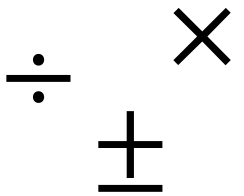
The seven articles of the United States Constitution...
Large **E**lephants **J**ump **S**lowly **A**nd **S**ink **R**apidly

- L**egislative
- E**xecutive
- J**udicial
- S**upremacy
- A**menendment
- S**tatehood
- R**atification



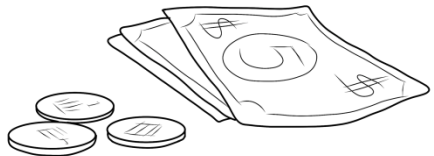
The order of math operations...
Please **E**xcuse **M**y **D**ear **A**unt **S**ally.

- P**arenthesis
- E**xponents
- M**ultiplication
- D**ivision
- A**ddition
- S**ubtraction




To recall which U.S. statesman portrayed on each denomination of the dollar bill...
When **J**uries **L**ack **H**onor, **J**ustice **G**ets **F**orgotten.

- George **W**ashington (\$1)
- Thomas **J**efferson (\$2)
- Abraham **L**incoln (\$5)
- Alexander **H**amilton (\$10)
- Andrew **J**ackson (\$20)
- Ulysses S. **G**rant (\$50)
- Benjamin **F**ranklin (\$100)



To remember the treble clef lines in music:
Every **G**ood **B**oy **D**oes **F**ine.
(E, G, B, D, F)

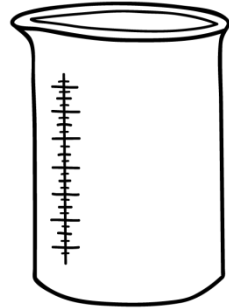


Memorization Techniques – Acrostics/Sentence Mnemonics

To remember the metric prefixes:

King Henry Died By Drinking Chocolate Milk.

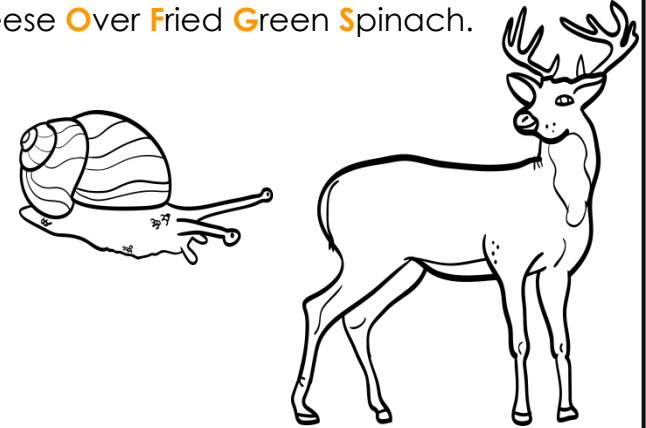
Kilo-
Hecto-
Deca-
Base (meter, liter, gram)
Deci-
Centi-
Milli-



To remember the biological classification system:

King Philip Came Over For Good Soup.
Kids Prefer Cheese Over Fried Green Spinach.

Kingdom
Phylum
Class
Order
Family
Genus
Species

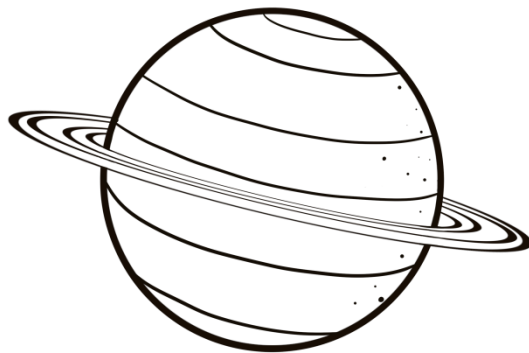


The order of planets...

My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nine Pancakes.
without Pluto

My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nachos.

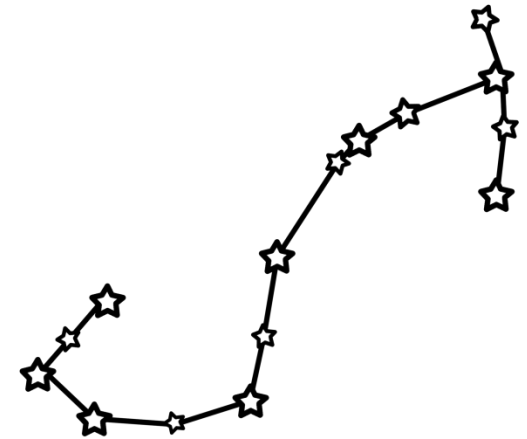
Mars
Venus
Earth
Mars
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune
Pluto



The signs of the zodiac...

As Times Goes, Cowboys Love Viewing Little Stars So Cool And Pretty.

Aries
Taurus
Gemini
Cancer
Leo
Virgo
Libra
Scorpio
Sagittarius
Capricorn
Aquarius
Pisces



Memorization Techniques #3 – Method of Loci

The Method of Loci is a powerful memorization technique that helps students remember information by associating it with specific locations. This method involves visualizing a familiar place, such as a room, house, or route, and mentally placing each item they need to remember in a particular spot within that location. By creating a vivid mental map, students can easily recall the information by “walking” through the location in their mind.

Example: Imagine you need to remember the steps of the water cycle: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, and Collection. Here’s how you can use the Method of Loci:

Choose a Familiar Location:

Select a place you know well, like your home.

Visualize the Route:

Picture yourself walking through your home, starting at the front door.

Place the Information:

Front Door (Evaporation): Imagine a pot of water boiling at the front door, with steam rising up.

Living Room (Condensation): In the living room, visualize a cold glass of water with droplets forming on the outside.

Kitchen (Precipitation): In the kitchen, see rain pouring down from the ceiling into a sink.

Backyard (Collection): In the backyard, picture a large puddle or pond collecting the rainwater.

Recall the Information:

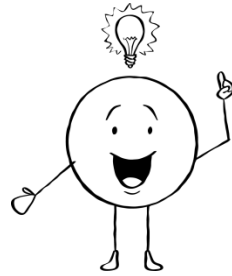
When you need to remember the steps of the water cycle, mentally walk through your home. Start at the front door and recall the boiling pot (Evaporation), then move to the living room and remember the cold glass (Condensation), proceed to the kitchen and visualize the rain (Precipitation), and finally, go to the backyard and see the pond (Collection).

Memorization Techniques #4 – Acronyms

Acronyms are another effective way to memorize lists, especially when the order isn't critical.

RAVEN for remembering the difference between affect and effect:

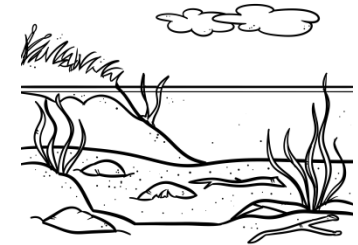
- R:** Remember
- A:** Affect
- V:** Verb
- E:** Effect
- N:** Noun



To remember the names of the Great Lakes.

HOMES

- H:** Huron
- O:** Ontario
- M:** Michigan
- E:** Erie
- S:** Superior



To remember the coordinating conjunctions in English grammar.

FANBOYS

- F:** For
- A:** And
- N:** Nor
- B:** But
- O:** Or
- Y:** Yet
- S:** So

To remember the order of operations in mathematics.

PEMDAS

- P:** Parentheses
- E:** Exponents
- M:** Multiplication
- D:** Division
- A:** Addition
- S:** Subtraction

PIES names four purposes of writing

- P:** Persuade
- I:** Inform
- E:** Entertain
- S:** Share Feelings



FACTS identifies the symptoms of flu.

- F:** fever
- A:** aches
- C:** chills
- T:** tiredness
- S:** sudden onset



Memorization Techniques #5 – Rhymes

Rhymes can be an effective tool for memorizing information. Songs, jingles, and rhymes often stick in our minds much longer than plain text.

<p>To remember how many days each month contains, learn this short poem.</p> <p>30 days hath September, April, June, and November. All the rest have 31 Except February my dear son. It has 28 and that is fine But in Leap Year it has 29.</p>	<p>To identify poison ivy:</p> <p>Leaflets of three, let it be.</p>
<p>This rhyme helps students remember the spelling rule.</p> <p>I before E, Except after C, Or when sounding like A, As in neighbor and weigh.</p>	<p>This poem helps predict the upcoming weather.</p> <p>Red sky at night Sailor's delight Red sky in the morning Sailors take warning</p>
<p>To remember the stages of the water cycle: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, Collection.</p> <p>Water goes up, Forms clouds in the sky, Falls as rain, And gathers nearby.</p>	<p>To remember when Columbus discovered America:</p> <p>In fourteen hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.</p>
<p>To distinguish latitude from longitude:</p> <p>Latitude is flat, around the Earth's hat, Longitude is long, from pole to pole it's drawn.</p>	<p>To remember multiplication facts:</p> <p>Five, six, seven, eight, Fifty-six is seven times eight.</p>

Memory Techniques #6 [Association, Chunking, and Visualization]

Association: Encourage students to make connections between the material they're trying to learn and something they already know. For instance, they could remember that "Whitney has white hair" by associating the name "Whitney" with the word "white."

Chunking: This technique involves breaking down information into smaller, more manageable chunks. For example, instead of memorizing a 10-digit phone number as a long string, students can break it down into groups like 423-722-4692.

Visualization: Students should draw pictures, diagrams, or charts to help them remember information. Visual elements are often easier to recall than text.

Memorization Techniques #7 – Spelling

Spelling can be tricky, but using clever mnemonic devices can help. Here are some popular examples:

She screamed EEE as she passed the cEmEtEry.

Remember that “cemetery” has three E’s, like the scream “EEE.”

StationERy is for a letter.

“Stationery” has an “ER” in it, just like “letter.”

My skin shows resistANCE to a TAN.

“Resistance” has “TAN” in it, reminding you of the word “tan.”

Bad gramMAR will MAR a report.

“Grammar” has “MAR” in it, which can ruin (mar) a report.

You hEAR with your EAR.

“Hear” has “EAR” in it, reminding you that you hear with your ear.

A piece of pie:

Remember that “piece” has “pie” in it.

Separate has a rat:

There’s a rat in “separate.”

Dessert is so sweet:

“Dessert” has two S’s because it’s so sweet, unlike a “desert.”

Believe the lie:

“Believe” has “lie” in the middle.

Necessary has one collar and two socks:

“Necessary” has one “c” (collar) and two “s”s (socks).

Rhythm helps your two hips move:

“Rhythm” has no vowels except “y.”

Affect is an action:

“Affect” starts with “a” for action (verb).

Principal is your pal:

The school “principal” is your pal.

Accommodation has two c’s and two m’s:

“Accommodation” can accommodate two c’s and two m’s.

Friend ends with end:

“Friend” ends with “end.”



Memorization Techniques #8 – Alliteration/Repeated Letter

Alliteration, or the repetition of initial consonant sounds, can make information more memorable. For example, This works well by associating names of people with characteristics:

Sophisticated Sylvie:

To remember a colleague named Sylvie, think of qualities that start with “S” like “sophisticated.”

Brilliant Bob:

To remember someone named Bob, associate him with “brilliant.”

Clever Clara:

For someone named Clara, think of “clever.”

Jolly Jack:

To remember Jack, think of “jolly.”

Mighty Mike:

For Mike, associate him with “mighty.”

Happy Hannah:

To remember Hannah, think of “happy.”

Memorization Techniques #9– Chaining

Chaining involves creating a story where each word cues the next. This technique can be especially useful for recalling sequences of information.

Example:

To remember the order of the planets, a student might tell a story about a mother who eagerly served different foods (representing the planets) to her children.

Memorization Techniques #10– Physical Movement While Learning and Memorizing

Research has shown that physical activity can enhance memory. Walking while reciting multiplication tables, for instance, can improve recall by up to 25%. Similarly, hand-writing notes, rather than typing them, can lead to better retention.

Instructions for the Memorization Devices Trail Game

Objective:

The goal of the game is to reach the end of the trail by correctly answering questions about memorization devices and participating in special events. Players will move along the trail, completing tasks and learning about various memorization techniques.

Setup:

Place the game board in the center of the playing area.

Each player selects a marker and places it at the "Start" position on the trail.

How to Play:

Players take turns rolling the dice or spinning the spinner to determine the number of spaces to move their marker along the trail.

When a player lands on a box, they read the question. The question may ask them to:

Explain: Describe how a specific memorization device works (e.g., name mnemonic, acrostic, method of loci).

Identify: Recognize a memorization device based on an example given on the card.

Give an Example: Create an example of a memorization device, such as a sentence mnemonic or acronym.

If the player answers correctly, they stay on the space. If they answer incorrectly, they move back one space and their turn ends.

Special Event Spaces:

If a player lands on a space with an image indicating a special event, they follow the instructions.

Move Forward: Advance to the nearest memorization device space.

Boy Scratching Head: The player must recall a previously answered question or example. If successful, they move ahead 2 spaces; if not, they stay where they are.

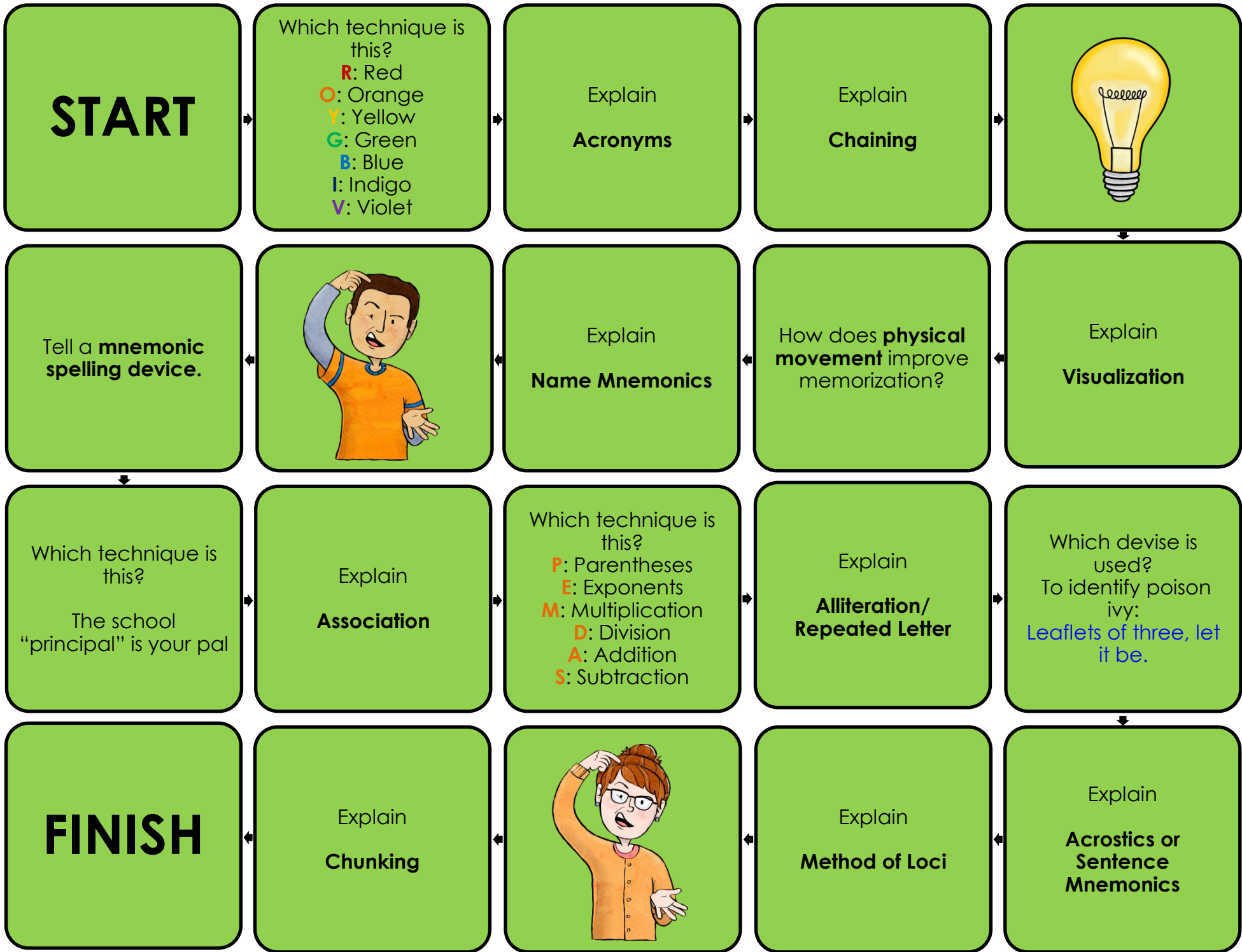
Girl Scratching Head: Swap positions with another player of their choice.

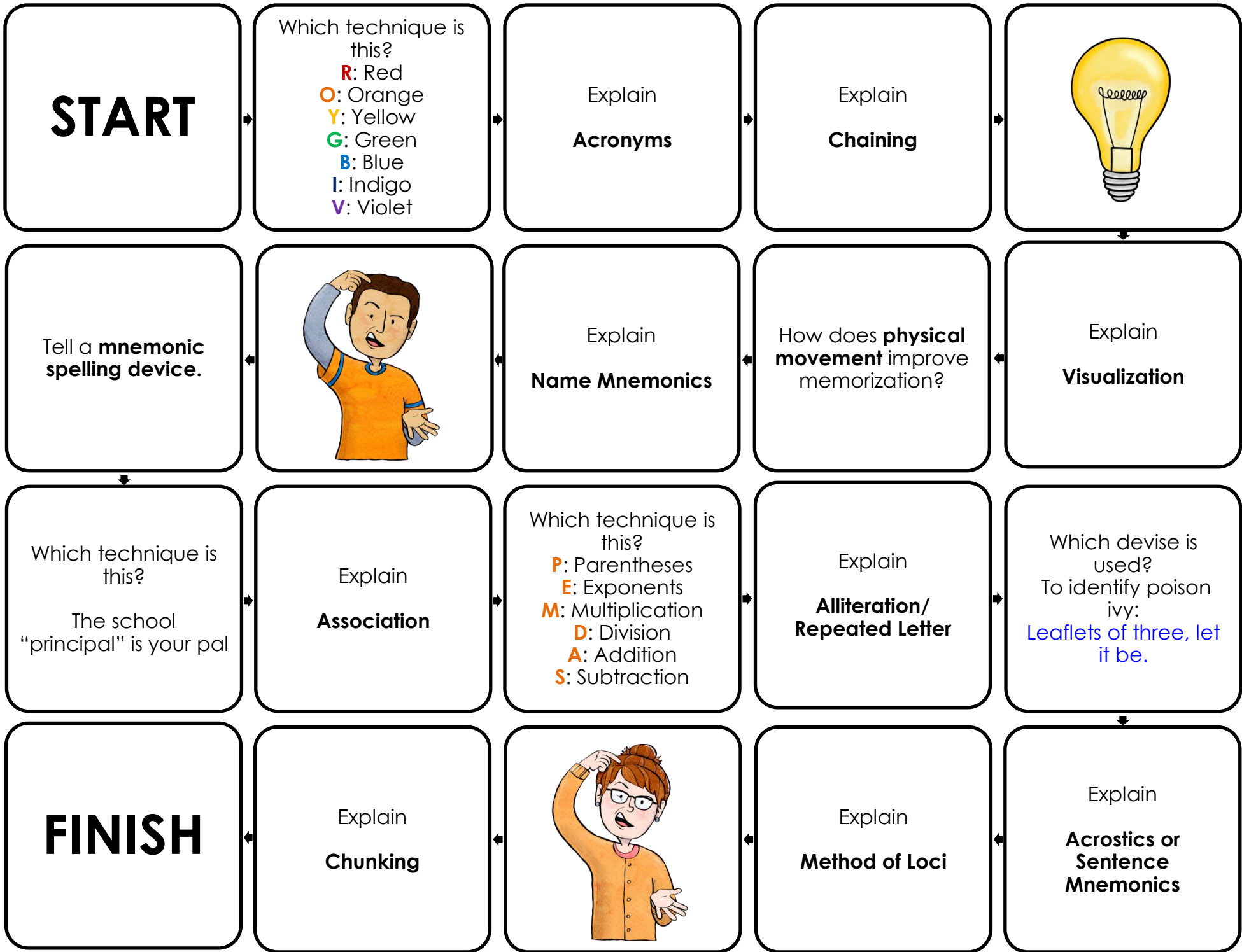
Lightbulb: Forward 3 spaces.

The game continues until one player reaches the final space on the trail. The first player to reach the end wins the game!

End of Game: The first player to reach the "Finish" space is the winner! All players who reach the finish are also encouraged to share the most interesting memorization device they learned during the game.

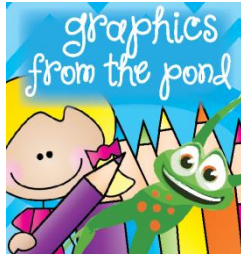
Full color and ink friendly versions are provided on the next pages.





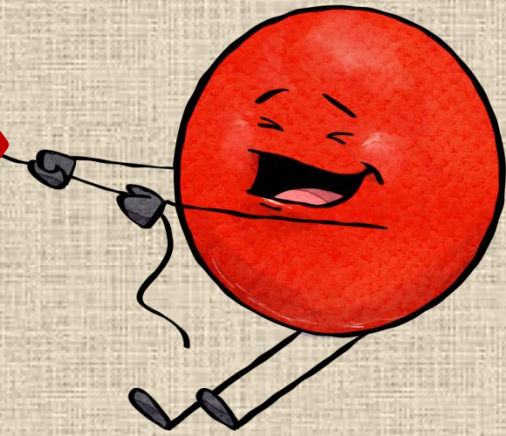


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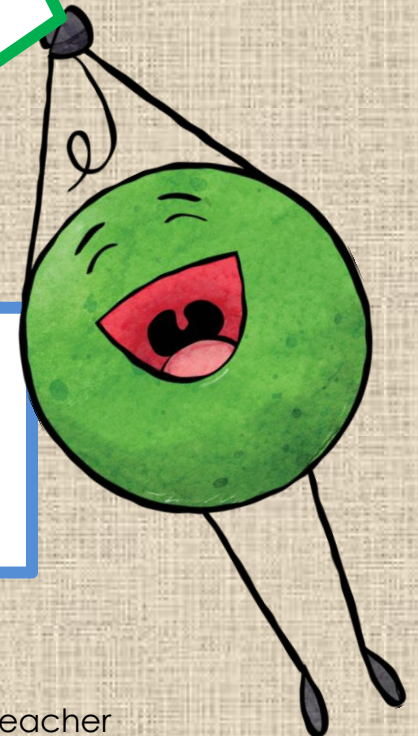
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