



# Mnemonic Devices

## What are Mnemonic Devices?

Mnemonic devices are various tricks that help you remember any kind of information by associating the information that we want to remember with a visual image, sentence, or a word. This tool works by tapping into how your brain naturally stores data. Mnemonics work best when they are created by you.

**Directions:** Use the table to guide your creation of Mnemonic Devices for remembering information.

| Mnemonic Device | Description  | Example   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Visual Image    | Associate a visual image with a word or name to help you remember them better. Positive, pleasant, vivid, colorful, and three-dimensional images are easier to remember. | To remember the name Rosa Parks and what she is known for, picture a woman sitting on a park bench surrounded by roses, waiting as her bus pulls up.                      |
| Acrostic        | Make up a sentence in which the first letter of each word is part of or represents the initial of what you want to remember.   | The sentence "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally" to remember the order of operations in math: Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, and Subtraction. |
| Acronym         | An acronym is a word that is made up by taking the first letters of all the key words or ideas you need to remember and creating a new word out of them                  | The word "HOMES" to remember the name of the Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.   |
| Rhymes          | The repetition of words with similar sounds or cadence. Can be a simple phrase or words set to a song.   | The rhyme "I before E except after C" to remember English spelling rules.   |
| Chunking        | Breaking long list of numbers or other types of information into smaller and more manageable chunks.   | Remembering a 10-digit phone number by breaking it down into three sets of numbers: 555-867-5309 (as opposed to 5558675309).  |
| Method of Loci  | Imagine placing the item you want to remember along a route you know well or in specific locations in a familiar room or building.                                       | For a shopping list, imagine bananas in the entryway to your home, a puddle of milk in the middle of the sofa, eggs going up the stairs, and bread on your bed.           |