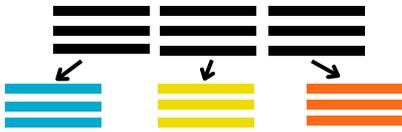


## Mnemonic Devices

Mnemonic devices are memory techniques that improve one's ability to recall information. They rely on recognizing patterns, condensing information, and building associations between concepts.

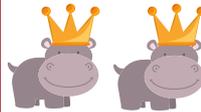
### Types of Mnemonic Devices

**Chunking:** Group large amounts of information into smaller, more manageable chunks.



**Stories:** Connect sequences and relationships to other logical concepts or invented stories.

**Example:**



To remember features of the hippocampus I imagine two hippo queens seated at the centre of their kingdom. They have amazing geographical knowledge and all newcomers are presented for them to decide if they can stay.

**Acronyms and acrostics:** Create a new word or sentence with the first letter of a series of words or concepts.

**Examples:**



Line notes on a treble stave:

Every **g**ood  
**b**oy **d**eserves  
**f**udge



Stages of Cell Division: IPMAT

- Interphase
- Prophase
- Metaphase
- Anaphase
- Telophase

Use **alliteration, rhyme and song** to create memorable word associations.

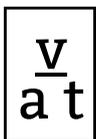
**Example:**

"Do what you oughta, add acid to wata (water)" reminds us of laboratory safety when diluting acids.



**Models and images:** Use or create an image that conveys relationships of ideas.

**Example:**



The relationship between velocity (v), acceleration (a) and time (t) can be presented using this model. Covering the unknown variable gives the formula using the remaining variables.

**Method of loci:** Visualize a well-known place. Map images and concepts as you move through the space.

**Example:**

For my philosophy class, I assign each philosopher to a different room of my childhood home. 'Moving' through the house, I come across them in chronological order. I 'place' items that remind me of their specific ideas and concepts throughout their rooms.



Pro tip: Mnemonic devices that tie to emotion, especially disgust, shock, or amusement, are often the most effective. Have fun with it!



To learn more, book a one-on-one coaching appointment or attend a Learning Skills Workshop!  
Visit [www.smu.ca/studentsuccess](http://www.smu.ca/studentsuccess)  
[StudentSuccess@smu.ca](mailto:StudentSuccess@smu.ca)

