

I hate memorisation!

By Lisa Frater

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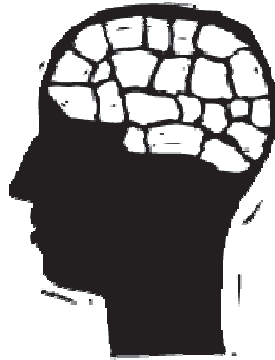
I am certainly not a rote learner! This memorisation technique based on repetition has proven to be an ineffective way for me to learn. Unfortunately this seems to be the most common way we teach and learn to memorise.

I long discovered a different way to teach multiplication to my children without using rote - and at the same time re-taught myself, since as soon as I left school all the facts disappeared - another factor reinforcing how rote and I just don't mix.

My problem ... I want to be able to memorise large chunks of text.

Over the years I have tried different memorisation techniques but only recently found one that works really well for me, so I thought I'd share that.

This technique can easily help you memorise a speech, the bible, poetry or any word for word text you're interested in memorizing.



Then take the first letter from each word ...

and **RECALL** it.

**F s a s y a o f b f o t c, a n n, c i L, a d t t p t
a m a c e.**

I have found this method much more productive, and I have managed to easily memorise much larger chunks of material (for me scripture), easier and more effectively than anything I have tried in the past. I now use this technique with the children and I highly recommend it.

We use cards, about 10cm square, with the full text on one side and the 'first letters' on the other side. We use the 'first letter' to recall and only flip over if we get really stuck to check a word.

There is an online tool that you can cut and paste your 'text' into and it will pull out the first letters which I then cut and paste for printing.

How to Memorise : **RECALL** not **REPEAT** !

I have discovered that the act of reading something, you want to memorise fires different connections in the brain than recalling. So reading something over and over is going to be the long way and frustrating road to memorisation. You need to get you brain practicing recall so the information can be memorised more effectively and efficiently, but there is a problem, how can you recall something until the information is at least partially in your short term memory?

Thanks to Google, and a brilliant wee article called 'How to Memorize Verbatim Text' by Mark Shead, here is the answer.

Take your text, and **READ** it to get a general familiarity with the piece :

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

<http://www.productivity501.com/how-to-memorize-verbatim-text/294/>

Anyway, that is my hopefully helpful bit of information this term. For everyone out there who struggles with word for word rote memorisation I hope this frees you from that burden as it has for me.

Now go memorise something!

Have another try ...

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deut 11:18-19

**F t w o m i y h a m ; t t a s o y h a b t o y f .
T t t y c , t a t w y s a h a w y w a t r ,
w y l d a w y g u ... D 11:18**