



Memory Device: Peg System

A **peg system** is a technique for memorizing lists. It works by pre-memorizing a list of words that are easy to associate with the numbers they represent (1 to 10, 1-100, 1-1000, etc). Those objects form the "pegs" of the system. Then in the future, to rapidly memorize a list of arbitrary objects, each one is associated with the appropriate peg. Generally, a peg list only has to be memorized one time, and can then be used over and over every time a list of items needs to be memorized.

The peg lists are generated from words that are easy to associate with the numbers (or letters). Peg lists created from letters of the alphabet or from rhymes are very simple to learn, but are limited in the number of pegs they can produce. While it is more complicated to learn than simple rhymes or alphabetic pegs, it is limitless in the number of pegs it can produce.

Pre-memorize (right now!) ten words that rhyme with ten numbers. Then create ten visual images that place the words into a context. For example:

- 1-gun Visualize the first item being fired from a gun
- 2-zoo Visualize an association between the second thing and a zoo
- 3-tree Visualize the third item growing from a tree
- 4-door Visualize the 4th item associated with a door
- 5-hive Visualize the fifth item associated with a hive or with bees
- 6-bricks Visualize the sixth item associated with bricks
- 7-heaven Visualize the seventh item associated with heaven
- 8-plate Visualize the 8th item on a plate as if it is food
- 9-wine Visualize a glass containing the 9th item
- 10-hen Visualize the 10th item associated with a chicken.

Later when you must remember things, such as items on a shopping list, associate the items you must remember with your pre-memorized visual images. For example:

- Apple: Picture an apple being fired from a gun
- Butter: Picture a gorilla stomping up and down on a stick of butter
- Razor Blades: Picture a tree with razor blades for leaves
- Soap: Picture a door made from soap
- Bread: Picture bees flying from a loaf of bread as if it is a hive
- Milk: Picture a brick house with milk jugs where the bricks should be
- Cat food: Picture an open can of cat food with angel wings and a halo
- Bacon: Picture bacon on a plate
- Batteries: Picture a wine glass filled with batteries
- Orange juice: Picture a hen being squeezed, and orange juice coming out

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