

Mnemonics

Math:

PLEASE EXCUSE MY DEAR AUNT SALLY helps math students recall the order of operations for Algebra -- Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication or Division, Addition or Subtraction.

SOH-CAH-TOA sounds like an Indian's name, but it's an abbreviation to help Trigonometry students remember the ratios for Sine, Cosine, and Tangent. Sine = Opposite/Hypotenuse; Cosine = Adjacent/Hypotenuse; and Tangent = Opposite/Adjacent. Since Sin, Cos, and Tan can be found in the same order on the face of any calculator, this phrase will help remember the ratios, "**Orange Horses Always Have Orange Ankles.**"

"See, I have a rhyme assisting my feeble brain." Value of Pi to nine places.

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5

The FOIL rule (First, Outside, Inside, Last) helps students multiply binomials such as $(a + 5)(a - 2)$. If students are taught to see a face in this product, then it can be spelled as FLOM, for "Funny Little Old Man." We then swap "Middle" for "Inside."

Science:

MY VERY EDUCATED MOTHER JUST SERVED US NINE PICKLES helps remember the order of the planets from the sun out -- Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. Of course, since 2007, we must now state this as **MY VERY EDUCATED MOTHER JUST SERVED US NOODLES**.

ROY G BIV is an acronym for the seven main colors of the rainbow or visible spectrum of light -- Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet.

KEEP PILING COOKIES ON FINE GLASS SAUCERS, VALERIE! Helps with the scientific classification of things -- Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species, and Variety.

I PUT MY ARM THERE is a mnemonic to recall the phases of meiosis -- Interphase, Prophase, Metaphase, Anaphase, and Telophase.

KING HENRY DIED BY DRINKING CHOCHOLATE MILK: The prefixes used in the metric system. Kilo, Hecto, Deka, Base, Deci, Centi, and Milli. Also, **King Henry Doesn't Usually Drink Chocolate Milk** replaces "Base" with "Unit."

Language Arts:

GEORGE EATS OLD GRAY RATS AND PAINTS HOUSES YELLOW helps remember how to spell GEOGRAPHY.

One of the most famous mnemonics is the spelling rule: "**I before E except after C, unless it says 'A' as in neighbor or weigh.**" (And "weird" is just plain weird.)

To help students learn the difference between desert and dessert, ask students which one they would like two of. Also, desert has an "s" for sand, and dessert has two "s"s for second serving.

Social Studies:

EAT AN ASPIRIN AFTER A NASTY SANDWICH -- the seven continents; Europe, Antarctica, Asia, Africa, Australia, North America, and South America.

HOMES is a mnemonic to remember the five Great Lakes -- Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior. If you want to remember them in order of size (Largest to smallest in surface area) then use "**SAM'S HORSE MUST EAT OATS.**" To rank them by order of greatest average depth, use "**SOME MEN HAVE ODD EGOS.**" If you want to learn them from west to east, remember, "**SHE MAKES HIM EAT OREOS.**"

"**Will A Jolly Man Make A Jolly Visitor?**" First eight US Presidents. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams, Jackson, and Van Buren. To remember Madison and Monroe, just remember they are in alphabetical order. You can add the words "**Here Too**" after "visitor" to increase your list to ten by adding Harrison and Tyler.

The cardinal directions on a compass spell "news." North, East, West, and South.

Month and their lengths are found in the old rhyme:

Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November;

All the rest have thirty-one excepting February alone:

Which hath but twenty-eight, in fine, till leap year gives it twenty-nine.

Music:

EVERY GOOD BOY DOES FINE is an mnemonic to remember the order of the G-clef notes on sheet music-- E,G,B,D,F. Also, **FACE** = the spaces of the treble clef: F, A, C, and E.

GOOD BOYS DO FINE, ALWAYS. The notes represented by the lines on the bass clef staff (bottom to top): (**G, B, D, F, A**), and of course, **ALL COWS EAT GRASS** for the notes represented by the spaces between the lines: (**A, C, E, G**)

Sports:

BRASS is an acronym for how to shoot a rifle-- Breath, Relax, Aim, Sight, Squeeze.

BEEF is an acronym for shooting free-throws—Balance (good foot position and body posture), Eyes (on the goal), Elbows (in) and Follow-through.

Miscellaneous:

SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK reminds us how to adjust our clocks when the time changes twice each year -- add an hour in the Spring, subtract an hour in the Fall.

The following are mildly offensive, but are helpful in diagnosing dehydration and other possibly harmful situations:

"Pee is white, I'm all right."

"Pee is yellow, hurt a fellow."

"Pee is pink, hospital I think."

"Pee is red, soon be dead."

"Pee is black, too late, Jack!"

KISS: The ultimate acronym and memory aid – "Keep It Simple, Stupid!"