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# Using Mnemonic Instruction to Facilitate Access to the General Education Curriculum

By: The Access Center (2007)

Mnemonic instruction is an instructional strategy commonly used with students who have disabilities as well as with their non-disabled peers. It is designed to improve memory of key information. Mnemonic instruction facilitates access to the general education curriculum by giving students the tools they need to better encode information so that it will be much easier to retrieve it from memory at later points. Mnemonics can be used in language arts (i.e., vocabulary, spelling, and letter recognition), mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, and other academic subjects. Use of this instructional strategy does not require a wealth of additional materials or extensive planning and preparation time (Mastropieri & Scruggs, 1998).

## How Mnemonic Instruction Works

Mnemonics is a memory enhancing instructional strategy that involves teaching students to link new information that is taught to information they already know. According to Levin (1993), mnemonic instruction is useful for students across a wide age range. Though students in the early elementary grades are usually not expected to learn and recall as many facts as older students, they are involved in a number of activities that involve making associations that employ mnemonic principles.

For example, associations linking the letter "a" to the word "apple" or "f" to "flower" employ mnemonic principles. Teachers instruct students in the use of mnemonic strategies by using both visual and verbal cues.

There are at least three distinct methods for teaching mnemonics: keyword, pegword, and letter strategies. These methods are briefly described below.

## Keyword Strategy

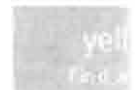
The keyword strategy is based on linking new information to keywords that are already encoded to memory. A teacher might teach a new vocabulary word by first identifying a keyword that sounds similar to the word being taught and easily represented by a picture or drawing. Then the teacher generates a picture that connects the word to be learned with its definition. According to Scruggs & Mastropieri (n.d.), the keyword strategy works best when the information to be learned is new to students.

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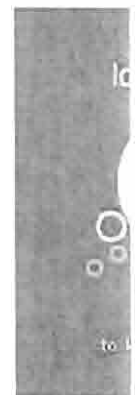


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**Example**



To teach students the definition of the new word, the teacher will ask the students to remember the keyword, envision the picture and how it relates to the definition, and finally recall the definition. If a teacher is trying to teach her students the definition of the old

English word *carline*, she will first identify a good keyword. In this instance, "car" is appropriate because it is easy to represent visually and it sounds like the first part of the vocabulary word. *Carline* means "witch" so the teacher shows the students a picture of a car with a witch sitting in it. When asked to recall the definition of *carline*, students engage in a four-step process:

1. Think back to the keyword (car)
2. Think of the picture (a car)
3. Remember what else was happening in the picture (a witch was in the car)
4. Produce the definition (witch) ( Scruggs & Mastropieri, n.d., p. 2)

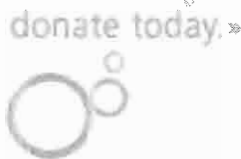
**Pegword Strategy**

The pegword strategy uses rhyming words to represent numbers or order. The rhyming words or "peg words" provide visual images that can be associated with facts or events and can help students associate the events with the number that rhymes with the pegword. It has proven useful in teaching students to remember ordered or numbered information (Scruggs & Mastropieri, n.d.). For example, "one" is typically represented by the word pegword "bun," two is represented by the pegword "shoe," and "three" is represented by the pegword "tree." Teachers can use these pegwords to help students remember historical facts.

**Example**



During a study of the American Revolutionary War, a teacher wanted her students to remember the three major Acts that the British Parliament passed that led to the American Revolutionary War: the Sugar Act of 1764, the Stamp Act (1765), and the Townshend Acts (1767). To help them remember the Acts and the order in which they occurred, she created the following mnemonics: for the Sugar Act of 1764, she created a picture of a bowl of sugar reminding students of the Sugar Act of 1764) being poured on a hamburger bun ("bun" is the pegword for "one," indicating the first Act that Parliament passed). For the Stamp Act, the teacher created a picture of a pair of shoes ("shoe" is the pegword for "two") with a stamp (to remind students of the Stamp Act) on it. Finally, she created a picture of a teapot with the Union Jack on it (to remind the students of the Boston Tea Party, which resulted from the Townshend Acts) and a tree coming out the top of the teapot ("tree" is the pegword for



"three").

### Letter Strategy

Teaching letter strategies involves the use of acronyms and acrostics. Acronyms are words whose individual letters can represent elements in lists of information, such as HOMES to represent the Great Lakes (e.g., Huron, Ontario, Michigan). Acrostics are sentences whose first letters represent to-be-remembered information, such as "My very educated mother just served us nine pizzas," to remember the nine planets in order (e.g., Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars). (Scruggs & Mastropieri, n.d.). Teachers can use these letter strategies to help students remember lists of information.

### Example A

The mnemonic "IT FITS" (King-Sears, Mercer, & Sindelar, 1992) is an acronym providing the following steps to create mnemonics for vocabulary words:

**I**dentify the term (vocabulary word, e.g., "impecunious").

**T**ell the definition of the term (e.g., "having no money").

**F**ind a keyword (e.g., "penniless imp").

**T**hink about the definition as it relates to the keyword, and imagine the definition doing something with the keyword. For example, "an imp tried to buy something but found that his pockets contained no money."

**S**tudy what you imagined until you know the definition (Foil & Alber, 2002).

### Example B

Another mnemonic device for creating keywords for new vocabulary is LINC'S (Ellis, 1992). During a unit on medieval history, students must learn a new vocabulary word, "catapult." The teacher gives the following instructions:

**L**ist the parts. Write the word on a study card, and list the most important parts of the definition on the back. On the front side of the card write the word "catapult" as the term to be defined, and on the back side of the card write "to throw or launch as if by an ancient device for hurling missiles."

**I**mage the picture. Create a mental picture and describe it. For example, something being launched over or through a barrier.

**N**ote a reminding word. Think of a familiar word that sounds like the vocabulary word. For example, a

"cat" and a "pole" sounds similar to "pult"—write this on the bottom half of the card).

**Construct a LINCing story.** Make up a short story about the meaning of the word that includes the word to be remembered, for example, a cat pole-vaulting over a castle wall.

**Self-Test.** Test your memory forward to back; for example, look at the word "catapult" and "cat pole" on the front of the card, and say aloud the definition on the back of the card, as well as the image of a cat pole-vaulting over a castle wall. Reverse this process by looking at the back of the card to self-test the vocabulary word and keyword (Foil & Alber, 2002).

## **How Mnemonics Facilitates Access to the General Education Curriculum**

Mnemonic instruction is a strategy that provides a visual or verbal prompt for students whomay have difficulty retaining information. In this way, children whose learning modalities are primarily visual or verbal are able to create a picture, word, rhyme, or sentence that is attached to an idea they already have. This strategy enhances access to the general education curriculum by building on what students already know or have experienced.

Mnemonic instruction follows the premise that as children learn, they are building a web of knowledge. Learning something new is like adding a thread to the web. For students with memory challenges or processing disorders, mnemonic devices become the tools to build threads from new to old ideas. Because of their ability to create and retain connections made by their typically developing peers, these students are then able to participate in the same curriculum.

## **Evidence of Effectiveness**

Mnemonic instruction "has been well researched and validated for students with high incidence disabilities, particularly students with learning disabilities, as well as for general education students in elementary and middle school" (DLD/DR Current Practice Alerts, p.1).

According to Swanson (1999) and Forness, Kavale, Blum, and Lloyd (1997), the use of mnemonic strategies have helped students with disabilities significantly improve their academic achievement. Mnemonic strategy was first used in a general education setting by college undergraduates learning foreign language vocabulary (Uberti, Scruggs, & Mastropieri, 2003, in Atkinson, 1975). Later research extended the use of such instruction into classrooms of younger students and among students with learning disabilities. In a recent study, college students used a mnemonic strategy to study and recall painting-to artist matchings. All four experiments of the study repeatedly showed that those students who used mnemonics substantially outperformed those who did not use them on tests that required recall of artists and their paintings (Carney & Levin, 2000). Two recent studies on using mnemonics for social studies instruction showed not only test improvement among all students but also



## Using Mnemonics to Improve Memory

**Mnemonic** (ni-MON-ic)- relating to, assisting or designed to assist the memory. A device such as a formula, rhyme, used as an aid in remembering. Comes from the Greek word Mnemosyne, the Greek goddess of memory.

**Acronyms**- a mnemonic device formed from the first letters of items you are trying to learn.

LASER: Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation

SCUBA: Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

ROY G. BIV Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

FOIL: First terms, Outer terms, Inner terms, Last terms

**Sentences**-a mnemonic device formed by using the first letters of the items you are trying to learn and creating either a serious or nonsensical sentence.

Arithmetic: A rat in the house may eat the ice cream.

Biology: King Phillip can only find his green slippers.

{Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species}

Algebra: Eek! My dear Aunt Sally!

{Exponentiation, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction}

**Rhymes**- the "golden rules" of grammar and facts

1. "I" before "E" except after "C" or when sounded like "A" as in neighbor or weigh.
2. In fourteen-hundred-and-ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
3. Thirty days has September, April, June, and November, all the rest have thirty-one, except February with twenty-eight and your done.

## A Rat In The House Might Eat The Ice Cream: Arithmetic

- Sir, I send a rhyme excelling  
In sacred truth and rigid spelling  
Numerical sprites elucidate  
For me the lexicon's dull weight.

Counting the letters of each word gives you the value of pi to the 20th place. The thing I like about this mnemonic is that it actually makes sense!

- May I have a large container of coffee?  
Counting the letters of each word gives you the value of pi to 7 places. Contributed by [joekor@earthlink.net](mailto:joekor@earthlink.net)... thanks!
- The Old Arab Carried A Heavy Sack Of Hay  
Tan = Opp/Adj; Cos= Adj/Hyp; Sin= Opp/Hyp - for remembering Trig identities, from [rgc2@vax.york.ac.uk](mailto:rgc2@vax.york.ac.uk).

For trig, you could also use:

- SOH-CAH-TOA,  
pronounced like the name of the old Native American Indian chief (or some such story). This one was sent to me by *rwatanabe*
- Only Holy Angels Have Opposite Angles.  
Another trig function mnemonic, useful if you remember the order is sine - cosine - tangent. This one from [munro@ben2.ucla.edu](mailto:munro@ben2.ucla.edu).

For remembering the order of calculations in algebra:

- Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally  
Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, Subtraction. Thanks to [ACL22@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ACL22@worldnet.att.net) for this one!

You could also use:

- Please Execute My Dog And Soon
- Put Every Man Down And Shout  
These are from [Lioness623@aol.com](mailto:Lioness623@aol.com) ... Thanks!

King	Henry	Died	(Monday, Tuesday...)	Drinking	Chocolate	Milk
I	E	E	GRAMS OR	E	E	I
L	C	C	METER	C	N	L
O	T	A	OR LITER	I	T	L
A				I		I

The order of magnitudes in metric measurements. Thank you, Ruth, for contributing this.

- Lucky Cows Drink Milk  
The ascending order of Roman numerals: LCDM ... Made up by the intelligent [ranney@sonic.net](mailto:ranney@sonic.net).
- I Surely Am Elated Making Curves.  
Thanks to [luigiispaul@yahoo.com](mailto:luigiispaul@yahoo.com), who says, "A high school teacher of mine used this one to remember what to look for when graphing a function." It stands for:

Intercepts  
Symmetry  
Asymptotes  
E – ??? If you know, let me know!  
Max/Min  
Curvature

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## Astronomy

The sky is falling! Or at least things are really changing. I'm going to leave the old "planet order" mnemonics here, from when Pluto enjoyed planetary status. However, I'll also add the new mnemonics I received immediately after the International Astronomical Union decided that Pluto isn't a planet after all.

So - if you see a "P" in the mnemonic, it's an old one. No "P," it's a new one. Old ones are first, then the new ones. Thank you to everyone who contributed with such alacrity!

- Men Very Easily Make Jugs Serve Useful Nocturnal Purposes  
The first letter of each word gives you the first letter of the *old list of planets*, in order: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

You could also use:

- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas  
(contributed by my very own *mother!*)

Adriana learned this mnemonic when she had a spelling list of all the planet names. The list also included "Milky Way Galaxy", so Adriana added to the mnemonic:

- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas *Made With Grapes!*

Or, you could use the one sent to me by *Brainsc@aol.com*:

- Mother Very Earnestly Made Jam Sandwiches Using No Peanuts Mayonaise or Glue

Or, try this one:

- My Very Easy Method-Just Set Up Nine Planets  
That one is brought to you by *spartapl@prolog.net*, whose son taught it to her.

And some more!

- Mary's Violet Eyes Make John Stay Up Nights Praying  
From *csmith@magiccarpet.com*... thanks!
- Mary's Violet Eyes Make John Stay Up Nights, Period.  
Thanks to *munro@ben2.ucla.edu* for that one.
- My Very Energetic Mother Just Sat Upon (the) North Pole  
Contributed by *alian@zip.net.au*.
- My Very Elegant Mother Just Sat Upon Nine Porcupines  
Submitted by *kaz@MetaphaseTech.com*, who learned it from his wife.
- My very educated mother just sent us nine pickles.
- My very educated mother just served us nine peas.
- My very excellent memory just served up nine planets.

Those last three are from *Darlene.K.Carlson.2@nd.edu*, who adds that she likes the 1st one on your list because the first M word is MEn for MErcury and the second M word is MAke for MArS!

- .Man very early made jars stand up nearly perpendicular.

This one is from *mjh@mchsi.com*, who sent one about the rainbow, too.

- My Very Efficient Mother Just Served Us Pistachio Nuts

This one is from *hclark1059@aol.com*, who notes that it's useful for the times when Pluto is actually closer than Neptune.

Well, those were all wonderful and useful mnemonics, while they still pertained to commonly-agreed-upon science. Who knows what the mnemonics will look like soon, with Charon and Sedna and Xena hanging around! Here are the new mnemonics for the current listing of planets, in order:

- "Many Very Extinct Maps Just Sold," Utters NASA  
Ouch! Hilarious! Thanks, *cvzdesign@yahoo.com*.

- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos
- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles
- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Naan
- My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nothing

All great ways to remember the **eight** (for now!) planets. It was fun to solicit these ideas today on the whiteboard at work.

- Oh, Be A Fine Girl, Kiss Me Right Now, Sweetie !
- Oh, Be A Fine Girl, Kiss Me Right Now! Smack!

For remembering the spectral classes of stars, hottest to coldest. These two are complements of *sphipp@sas.upenn.edu*. I get a chuckle out of the second one!

- O, Be A Fine Guy, Kiss Me Right Now, Sweetheart!
- O Big and Fierce Gorilla, Kill My Roommate Next Saturday
- O Buy A Fine Green Kilo, Man
- On Bad Afternoons, Fermented Grapes Keep Mrs. Richard Nixon Smiling

More on the same theme. For more information on spectral classes of stars, see <http://www-astronomy.mps.ohio-state.edu/~pogge/Ast162/Unit1/sptypes.html>, which notes that the RNS classes are no longer used, having been supplanted by the L and T types. For mnemonics on OBAFGKMLT, see <http://astronomy.sussex.ac.uk/~loveday/starGal/obafgkmlt.html>

- "*O Lady Moon, your horns point toward the east;  
Shine, be increased:  
O Lady Moon, your horns point toward the west;  
Wane, be at rest.*"

A poem by Christina Rossetti, to tell whether the moon is waxing or waning.

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<http://www.netnaut.com/mnemonics/astronomy.html>

10/21/2006

## History

- In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
- In 1493, Columbus stole all he could see.  
That's what happened the following year. From [by626@FreeNet.Buffalo.EDU](mailto:by626@FreeNet.Buffalo.EDU)
- '59 was the date when Alaska and Hawaii became new states.  
1959, in the United States of America
- In 1903, the Wright brothers flew free.  
First successful flight
- In 1848, Wisconsin became a state.  
Again, in the USA.
- I sighted Thomas's rights.  
Each word in the sentence stands for a numeral in the date -- 1=I, 7=sighted, etc. This is to remember that 1776 is when the American Declaration of Independence was signed.
- I captured south's flags.
- A neighbor battle ended.  
These two use the same technique as above, to remember that the American Civil War ended in 1865.

The above six history mnemonics were contributed by an 8th grade study skills class in Wisconsin. Some they heard, some they made up. Thanks, kids!!

- Divorced, Beheaded, Died, Divorced, Beheaded, Survived.  
A very commonly heard mnemonic for the six wives of Henry VIII. Thanks go to [josh@well.com](mailto:josh@well.com) for reminding me of this one!

● Willy, Willy, Harry, Stee,  
Harry, Dick, John, Harry three.  
One, two, three Neds, Richard two,  
Harry's four, five, six, then who?  
Edwards four and five, Dick the bad...  
Harry's twain, Ned six (the lad)  
Mary, Bessie, James you ken...  
then Charlie, Charlie, James again.  
Will and Mary, Anna Gloria,  
Georges four, Will four, Victoria.  
Edward seven next, and then  
came George the fifth in 1910.  
Ned the Eighth soon abdicated  
Then George the Sixth was coronated  
After which Elizabeth...  
and that's all folks until her death.

This is one of the mnemonics that got me interested in the subject of mnemonics. I read it in the back of a *Scientific American* magazine in the mid- to late-1970s, I think. "Dick the bad" is Richard III, Bessie is Queen Elizabeth I, Stee is Stephen of Blois, Harry is Henry, and Ned is a nickname for Edward.

- Blondie Finds Debbie Harry Luckily.

Who knew there would be mnemonics to remember something like this: The perils faced by the Donner Party in 1846:

Food shortage

Disease

Hostile Indians

Landscape

Thanks, [conage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:conage@hotmail.co.uk) for this one.

- What Are Just Men? Men Are Just, Virtuous, Honest True Pending Their ..... *Something!!!*  
This is for remembering the order of the USA Presidents ... but the contributor can't remember the rest. Can you? Help!

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## Spelling and Grammar

- A friend is always there when the end comes.  
For those who always look at "friend" and think that it looks wrong - emailed to me by [kcomer@metronet.com](mailto:kcomer@metronet.com).
- General Eisenhower's oldest girl rode a pony home yesterday.  
How to spell Geography! Thanks, [silmaril@kuentos.guam.net](mailto:silmaril@kuentos.guam.net).
- George eats old gray rats and paints houses yellow.  
Also how to spell Geography. This one is from [wildcats@psci.net](mailto:wildcats@psci.net) - thanks!
- George Ellen's Old Grandmother Rode A Pig Home Yesterday.  
And again ... from [rlands@bellatlantic.net](mailto:rlands@bellatlantic.net)
- I before E except after C  
And when saying "A" as in Neighbor or Weigh  
And weird is weird.  
That's fairly self-explanatory. This is one I have to whisper to myself EVERY time I spell "receive" (I whispered it again, just now, typing that word!). Thanks to [cedric@pts.mot.com](mailto:cedric@pts.mot.com) for providing the last line of the rhyme. Of course, [icyblood@infowest.com](mailto:icyblood@infowest.com) points out that there are about 200 words that don't follow this rule, as in "kaleidoscope".
- Separate is A RAT of a word to spell  
To remember to spell separate correctly, instead of "seperate". Emailed to me by [bntfkap@northstar.k12.ak.us](mailto:bntfkap@northstar.k12.ak.us)! She also sent along:
- When two vowels go walking the first does the talking  
For words like "oat" or "eat"). And:
- The silent 'e' makes the vowel say its name  
For words like cap/cape and hat/hate.
- Once there was a young woman named Sep. He was violently afraid of rodents, especially rats. One day, her little brother, who was a very cruel, unfeeling child, tapped her shoulder, and yelled "Sep, a rat!" Her response, of course, was a loud "Eeeeeee!"  
This is a very clever story to remind a person how to spell "separate." Thank you, [Whitney Cohen](#), for this.
- A Rat In The House Might Eat The Ice Cream  
The first letter of each word spells Arithmetic!
- A rat in Tom's house may eat tom's ice cream  
Same song, different verse.
- Would you rather have one S or two? Twice as much for dessert.  
deSSert - two s's; desert - one s.
- When you eat "dessert", you always want to come back for the second "s".  
Another desert/dessert mnemonic, from [callisto@dorsai.org](mailto:callisto@dorsai.org)
- sweet stuff  
Dessert has double esses (thanks to [Darlene.K.Carlson.2@nd.edu](mailto:Darlene.K.Carlson.2@nd.edu))
- Strawberry Shortcake

Dessert has two s's in it ... like Strawberry Shortcake. Thanks to *MARAGONA@prodigy.net*!

- A Dessert is Super Sloppy; A Desert is Sandy  
Yet more ways to remember "dessert" vs. "desert" ... from *SD2404@aol.com*. Thanks!
- The word "believe" has "lie" in it  
Also contributed by *callisto@dorsai.org*, who appears to love mnemonics as much as I do!
- Your principal is your PAL  
The difference between Principle and PrinciPAL... thanks, *edlindabowes@itl2.itlnet.net*, for sending me this!
- The sailor's favorite boat was named "PAN CAP IV"  
Parts of Speech: Pronoun, Adverb, Noun, Conjunction, Adjective, Preposition, Interjection, Verb
- RAVEN  
R emember  
A ffect  
V erb  
E ffect  
N oun  
To remember when to use "affect" vs "effect" ... *pkokkoros@sprint.ca* uses this in her ESL classroom.
- "To get her"  
Remember how to spell "together" by noting that if you "get her," you'll be "together!" (Thanks, *gfarrelly@hoopp.com*.)
- When you assume something you make an "ass" of "u" and "me."  
This is how you spell "assume." It's also a great reminder to avoid assumptions! Thanks again to *gfarrelly@hoopp.com*, who sent an email full of mnemonics.
- One collar, two socks.  
A reminder on how to spell "necessary." Thank you, Michael, for this one.
- Rhythm has your two hands moving!  
Here's how to spell "Rhythm!" I'm going to use this one frequently, because I've always had to look it up before now. Thanks, *conage@hotmail.co.uk*!

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*geomanda@frii.com*

## Geography

- Never Eat Shredded Wheat  
From *ih2@ukc.ac.uk*, who contributed a computer science one, too.
- Never Eat Slimy Worms
- Never Eat Soggy Waffles  
(From *mackflo@pop.k12.vt.us*'s students, who have imagination!
- Never Eat Sour Watermelon  
To remember the directions on a map, place the first letter of each word in a clockwise circle starting at the 12 o'clock position:  
  

N
W      E
S
- Thanks go to *Darlene.K.Carlson.2@nd.edu* for the watermelon one, and also for:
- I Am A Person  
The 4 Oceans (Indian, Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific)
- Eat An Aspirin After A Nighttime Snack  
The 7 Continents (NOTE: The 2nd letter in the 1st 3 A words help to remember the A continents) : Europe, Antarctica, Asia, Africa, Australia, North America, South America
- Eat AN ASpirin AFter AUgmenting Noah's Ship.  
Another one for the 7 continents, from *JREE6201@acc.fau.edu*, who adds "Not only are ALL the A's served by the first two letters of the A words, but it adds in a little vocabulary too!!!"
- HOMES  
Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior : the Great Lakes in North America.
- Sam's Horse Must Eat Oats  
For the Great Lakes in order of size: Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, Ontario (*by water surface area*)
- See Mr. Huron Eating Oranges  
The Great Lakes, in order from west to east (Thanks, *andre@psinet.net.au!*)
- She Makes Horses Eat Oats  
Ditto, from *csbarnes@wowway.com*
- Elephants Lie Lightly, But Under Mattresses  
This is one of three that I made up during a Russian Geography class, to remind me of the Republics (pre-glasnost, etc.) along the western edge of Russia: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (the L's are in alphabetical order), Belorussia, Ukraine, Moldavia.
- George Adores Apples  
Again, for the Geography class, the next grouping of Republics to the southeast: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaydzhan.
- Cossacks ooze back to Turkey, cursing dead sheiks  
The cleverest of all, since the sounds of the words reminded me of the sounds of the names of the Republics: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizistan, Tadjhikistan. Those are the ones to the east of the Caspian Sea.

- Sultry Carol Languished Grumpily Near Carl, Always Aware Virginal Men Frequently Take Time.  
The Confederate States of America: South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas.

- BeeGee's Hen! See 'er pee?

These are to remember the countries of Central America, in geographic order.

Bee (Belize)

Gee (Guatemala)

Hen (Honduras and Nicaragua )

See 'er (C R - Costa Rica)

Pee (Panama)

*jgibson@friend.ly.net*, who teaches 7th and 8th grades, contributed this, and she says that it was one of the most successful ideas for remembering the countries. She also claims it was the most stupid (that's debatable!) and says that stupid is a helpful requirement for a mnemonic device. I have to agree with that one!

- Can Dead Men Vote Twice; Add East

To determine true north from compass north. Compass, Deviation, Magnetic, Variation, True.  
Add east and subtract west. For more detailed info, check [here](#).

- True Virgins Make Dull Company

- TV Makes Dull Company

True Variation Magnetic Deviation Compass, the process (forward and backward) to go between compass reading and the course line drawn on a nautical chart. (Thanks, Mark K!)

- Jesus Christ Made Seattle Under Protest

This gives the order of the streets in downtown Seattle, south to north, two at a time. They are: Jefferson, James, Cherry, Columbia, Marion, Madison, Spring, Seneca, University, Union, Pike and Pine. Thanks to *mica@crick.com*, who gave me the mnemonic, but made me go hunting for the street names!

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