

# Acronyms

A good way to remember information is to create an acronym. You use a letter from each word in the information you want to remember and create a new word that stands for it.



## Directions

Read the acronym example and the information that follows. Then create your own acronym for each piece of information. If you have trouble making a "real word," invent a nonsense word that sounds as if it could be real. (You can add a vowel if you need one.)

**Example:** SCUBA stands for **s**elf-**c**ontained **u**nderwater **b**reathing **a**pparatus.

- 1 Make an acronym to remember the names of the seven continents: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica.

Acronym: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Make an acronym to remember the three types of triangles: scalene, isosceles, equilateral.

Acronym: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Make an acronym to remember the five main parts of the eye: cornea, iris, pupil, lens, retina.

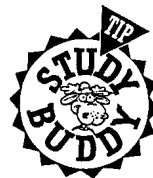
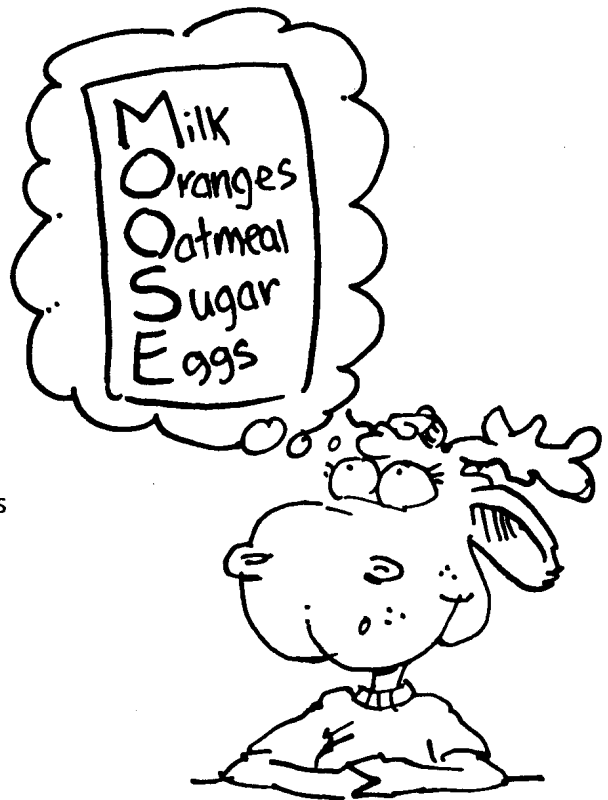
Acronym: \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Make an acronym for the names of the first three presidents (keep these words in order): George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson.

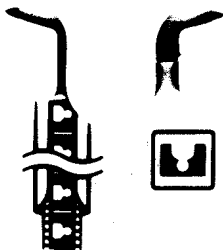
Acronym: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Make an acronym for the names of the five brightest stars: Alpha Centauri, Sirius, Procyon, Altair, Fomalhaut.

Acronym: \_\_\_\_\_



In everyday life, you can use acronyms to remember grocery lists.



# Acrostics

An acrostic is a sentence that uses the first letter from each word you want to remember and substitutes a word using the same letter. Acrostics are great when you have to remember information in a certain order.



## Directions

Read the acrostic example and the information that follows. Then create your own acrostic for each piece of information. If you have trouble making a sentence, add words such as *a* or *the*.

**Example:** The planets in our solar system are **M**ercury, **V**enus, **E**arth, **M**ars, **J**upiter, **S**aturn, **U**ranus, **N**eptune, and **P**luto.

**Acrostic:** My Very Educated Mother Just Sent Us Nine Pizzas.

- 1 Create an acrostic for the colors in the spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.

**Acrostic:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Create an acrostic for the minerals in Mohs Scale of Hardness (from softest to hardest): talc, gypsum, calcite, fluorite, apatite, feldspar, quartz, topaz, corundum, diamond.

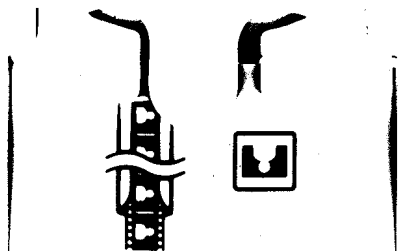
**Acrostic:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Create an acrostic for the states in New England: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island.

**Acrostic:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Try to keep your acrostics simple. Silly acrostics can be easy to remember, too!



# Pictures in Your Mind

A great way to remember a list of words is to create a funny picture in your mind that links all the words together.

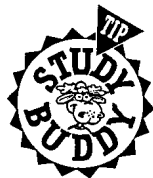
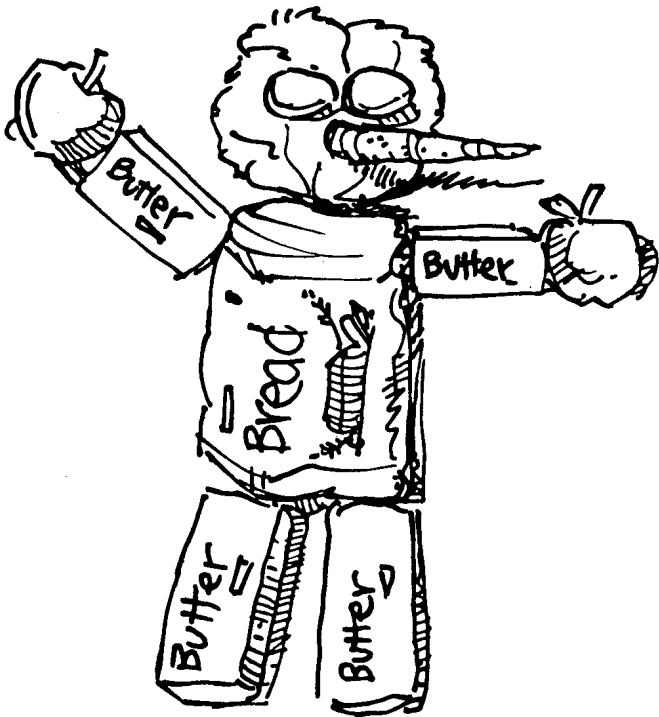
**Directions**

Read the example and look at its picture. Then read the word lists, create a picture in your mind for each list, and draw sketches to show the pictures.

**Example**

Shopping List

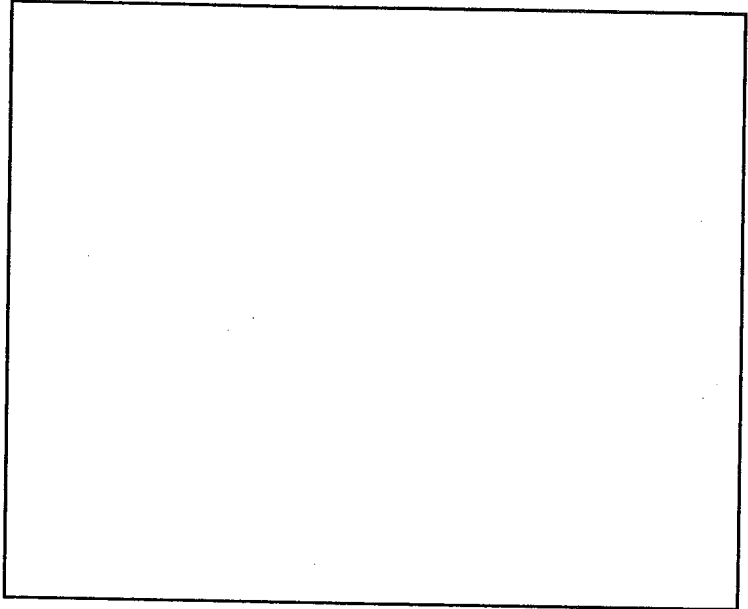
bread, eggs, carrots, butter, apples, lettuce



Making pictures in your mind works best for short lists of words.

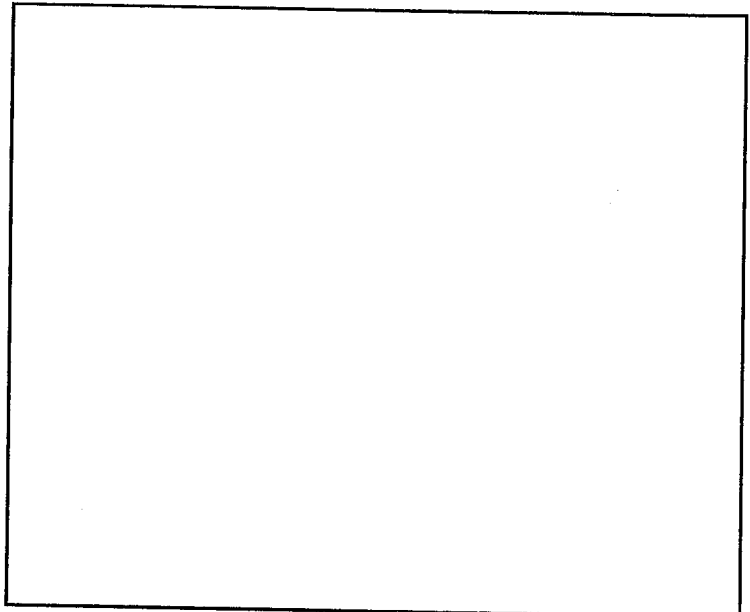
**1. Shopping List**

toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, soap, shampoo, comb, brush



**2. Homework Supplies**

paper, pencil, calculator, watch, book, snack



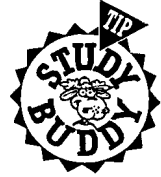
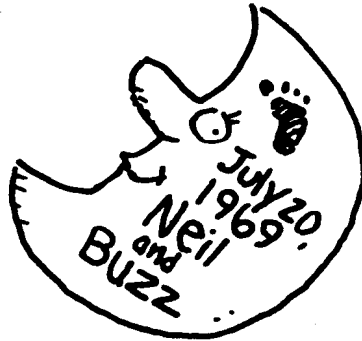
# Drawing Sketches

Another great way to remember facts is to draw a simple sketch that symbolizes the information, and then memorize that picture.

## Directions

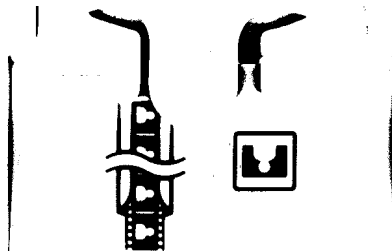
Read the example and look at its picture. Then read the word lists and draw a sketch for each one.

**Example:** On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people to walk on the Moon.



Try to keep the pictures simple. Complicated pictures waste time and are hard to remember. Pictures help when you're taking notes, too!

<p><b>1</b> The Boston Tea Party was staged in December 1773, as a protest to tea and sugar taxes.</p>	<p><b>3</b> The hydrosphere (Earth's surface covered with water) makes up 71% of Earth. The lithosphere (dry land) makes up 29%.</p>
<p><b>2</b> Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), who wrote <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>, lived from 1835 to 1910.</p>	<p><b>4</b> A solar eclipse occurs when the moon's shadow is cast on Earth as it passes directly between the Sun and Earth.</p>



# Flip Books

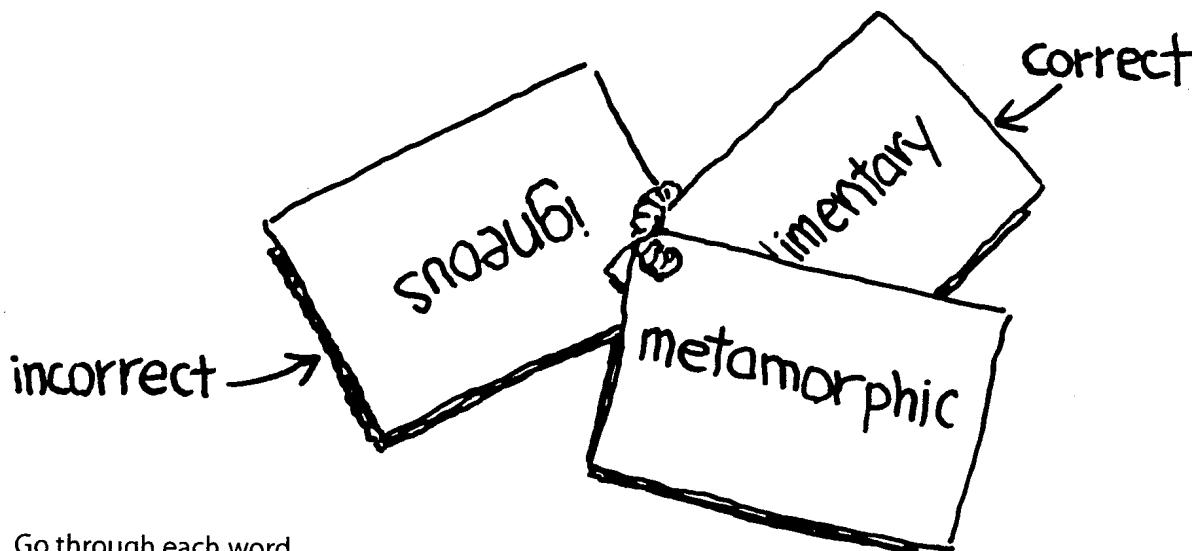
When you need to remember vocabulary or answers to specific questions, you can make a flip book to remember the information.



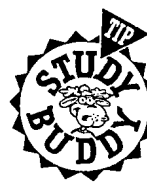
## Directions

Follow the directions below to make a flip book for a current list of vocabulary words and definitions.

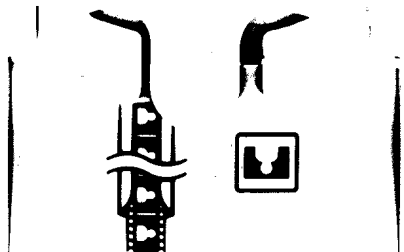
- 1 Use an index card for each word, and punch a hole in the top-left corner of each card.
- 2 Tie the cards together with a piece of yarn.
- 3 Write a vocabulary word on each card. Write the definition on the back.
- 4 Read and spell the first word. Try to remember the definition you wrote and say it. Turn the card over to see if you are correct. If you are, move the card to the right. If you are incorrect, move the card to the left.



- 5 Go through each word.
- 6 Play the game until you can name each definition on the first try.
- 7 Turn the cards over and play the game the other way. Read the definitions and try to name and spell the words.



Flip books are great for math facts, too!



# Songs

Another good way to remember information is to use a familiar tune and write a song that incorporates what needs to be remembered.

## Directions

Read the example. Then use one of the suggested tunes to write your own song for the multiplication facts of eight.

**Example:** Whistle While You Learn  
(to the tune of "Whistle While You Work")

Whistle while you learn (whistle)  
and musically together we will learn the facts of nine.

9 x 9 is 81. I think this could be fun.

72 is 9 x 8. Hey, this is really great.

9 x 7 is 63. I sound smart as can be.

54 is 9 x 6. I like these little tricks.

9 x 5 is 45. These facts are starting to jive.

36 is 9 x 4. I like this even more.

The last four that remain

Are easy just the same.

Just match these answers to the facts

To end this rhyming game.

9 x 3 is 27.

9 x 2 is 18.

9 x 1 is 9.

9 x 0 is 0.



Always choose an easy-to-remember tune!

## Tune Suggestions

"Are You Sleeping?"

"Yankee Doodle"

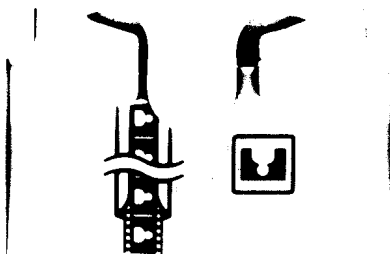
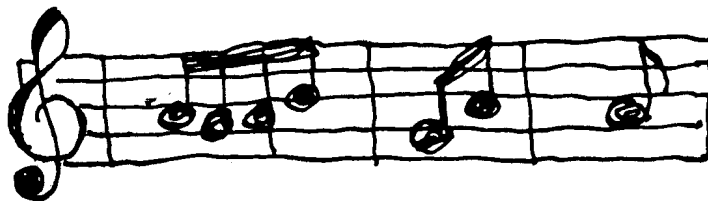
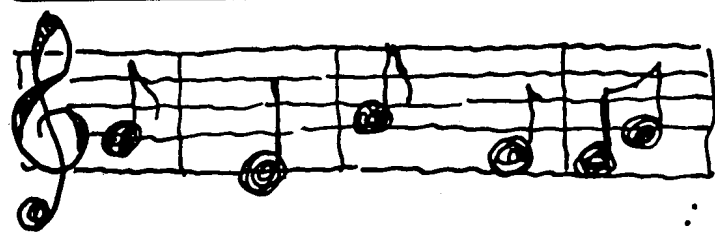
"Old MacDonald"

"The Farmer in the Dell"

"London Bridge"

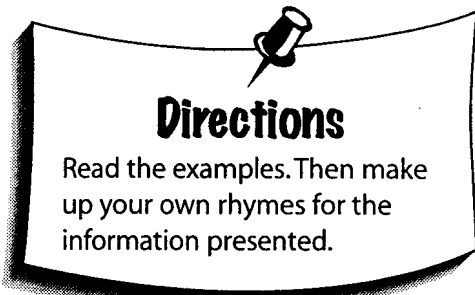
"Jingle Bells"

## My Song for the Multiplication Facts of Eight



# Rhymes

Sometimes making up simple rhymes is the easiest way to commit single pieces of information (such as definitions) to memory.



**Directions**  
Read the examples. Then make up your own rhymes for the information presented.

2, 4, 6, 8,  
I think rhyming  
is really great!



**Example 1:** A noun is a person, place, or thing.  
Like mother, California, beach, or ring.

**Example 2:** An adjective is a word that describes a noun.  
Like old, silly, tired, or round.

1 An adverb adds meaning to the verb in a phrase.

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2 A verb is called an action word.

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3 My state has a capital, yes it's true.

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4 There are many kinds of fish in the sea.

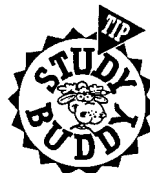
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5 Water is called H<sub>2</sub>O.

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6 My school's phone number is easy to say.

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Always write down your rhymes so you can practice them.

# Time Lines

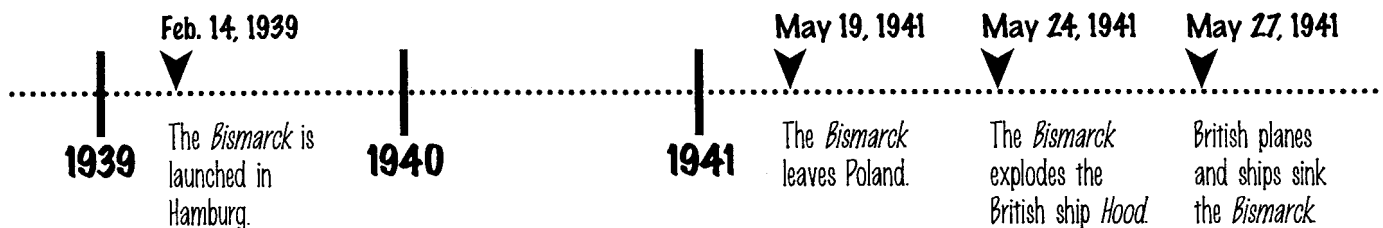
Do you know how to remember a lot of dates and events in a row?  
Read on to learn how to use time lines to put important dates "in your head."



## Directions

When you need to remember a series of dates in order, use a time line as a memory helper.  
Read the example and then draw your own time line using the facts below.

### Example: The Battleship *Bismarck*



### Facts

**April 6, 1917**

The U.S. enters World War I.

**June 28, 1914**

Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated.

**May 7, 1915**

The *Lusitania* is sunk.

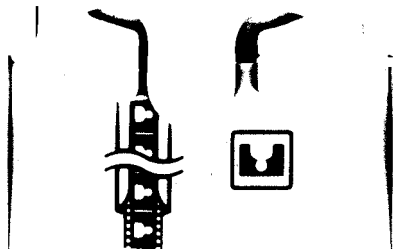
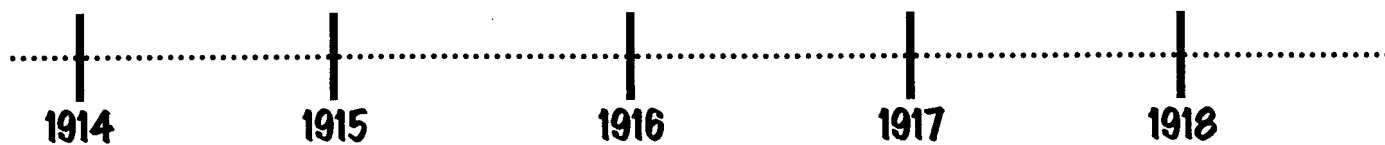
**November 11, 1918**

World War I ends.

**July 28, 1914**

World War I starts.

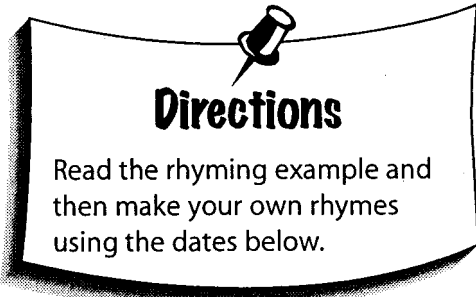
## WORLD WAR I



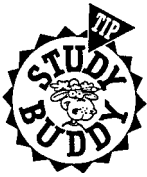


# Remembering Dates with Rhymes

If you only have to remember one date and a little information that goes with it, use a rhyme to help you remember. It's quick, easy, and fun!



**Directions**  
Read the rhyming example and then make your own rhymes using the dates below.



Try this strategy to remember birthdays. It works!

**Example:** In 1492, Columbus sailed to a world that was new.

1 The Boston Tea Party took place in 1773.

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2 The Civil War began in 1861.

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3 Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969.

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4 Chief Joseph became chief of the Nez Percé Indians in 1871.

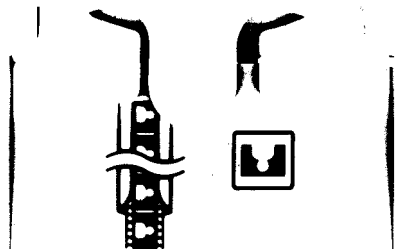
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5 Marie Curie, the Polish physicist, was born on November 7, 1867.

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6 Women in the United States were given the right to vote on August 18, 1920.

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# Remembering Numbers

When you can remember numbers and math facts, you save time and can complete more complex problems.



## Directions

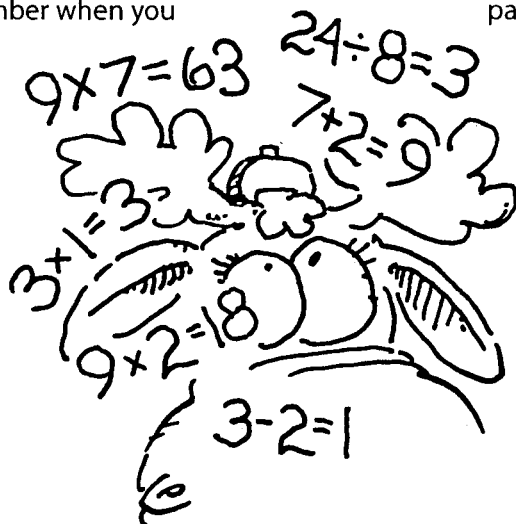
Try the following techniques to remember math facts and operations. Check off each technique after you try it. Use these ideas when you study for math tests.

- 1** To memorize math facts, make a set of flash cards with the problems on one side and the answers on the other. Quiz yourself several times or have a friend quiz you until you know the facts quickly and accurately.
- 2** Tape-record yourself reciting math facts or the order of math operations. Put on earphones and play the tape whenever you travel or have free time.
- 3** Look for and remember repeating patterns in numbers. Below are two examples of repeating number patterns. Study to remember these patterns and then look for more as you complete math assignments.

### Example 1: The Nine Trick

When multiplying by 9, you can add the two digits of the answer together. The answer will always be 9. If you get another number when you add the digits, you know your answer is wrong.

- $9 \times 2 = 18$  ( $1 + 8 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 3 = 27$  ( $2 + 7 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 4 = 36$  ( $3 + 6 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 5 = 45$  ( $4 + 5 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 6 = 54$  ( $5 + 4 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 7 = 63$  ( $6 + 3 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 8 = 72$  ( $7 + 2 = 9$ )
- $9 \times 9 = 81$  ( $8 + 1 = 9$ )



### Example 2: The Three Trick

When multiplying by 3, you can add the two digits of the answer together. The answers will always follow a pattern (3, 6, 9). If you get another number when you add the digits, you know your answer is wrong.

- $3 \times 1 = 3$  (3)
- $3 \times 2 = 6$  (6)
- $3 \times 3 = 9$  (9)
- $3 \times 4 = 12$  ( $1 + 2 = 3$ )
- $3 \times 5 = 15$  ( $1 + 5 = 6$ )
- $3 \times 6 = 18$  ( $1 + 8 = 9$ )
- $3 \times 7 = 21$  ( $2 + 1 = 3$ )
- $3 \times 8 = 24$  ( $2 + 4 = 6$ )
- $3 \times 9 = 27$  ( $2 + 7 = 9$ )



Because math skills build on each other, it's important to memorize basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts so you can do harder problems later.

# Group Games

Sometimes it's easier to memorize information if you play study games with a group of friends or family.

## Game 1: Team Q & A

Divide your group into two teams. Meet with your team and use information from your chapter to write several questions and answers. At the same time, have the other team write questions for your team to answer. Ask the other team your questions and award points for correct answers. Then have the other team ask their questions while your team tries to answer.

## Game 2: Twenty Questions

Have each person from your group choose an event or person from your chapter to study. (Show all the choices to someone who isn't in your group to check that no two people have the same event or person.) After studying, choose one person to be "it" first. Have the rest of the group ask "it" yes or no questions to get information and guess the event or person. If the group can't guess within 20 questions, have "it" tell the answer. Play until everyone has a turn to be "it."

## Game 3: Draw It

Divide your group into two teams. Meet with your team and write the names of five or six events or people on separate index cards. At the same time, have the other team write five or six names. (Show all the cards to someone who isn't in your group to check that both teams have different events or people.) Have a person from the other team choose one of your team's cards and draw picture clues about the event or person on the card. The "drawer's" team should look at the pictures and try to guess the event or person. If the other team guesses correctly within one minute, they get a point. Have your team take the next turn to draw and guess. Take turns until all the cards are used.

## Directions

With a group of friends, choose one of the following games. Play the game using information from a current chapter in a textbook.

Do you guys want to come over and study?



Sometimes there is a temptation to "goof off" when you study with friends. Try your best to concentrate!