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SOME TRICKS TO HELP REMEMBER NEW WORDS QUICKLY & EASILY

Words, words, words...so many to learn and it's so hard to remember them all, let alone use them, right? Well, today I've got some tips that should make learning & remembering new vocabulary easier, faster, more fun, and more effective.

Make word association webs – our brain takes what we read and makes it into images, ideas, and feelings etc. and then makes connections between what we knew before and the new information (words and ideas). This is how we remember things. The “new” stuff is fitted into the “old” stuff. Think of a tree. It is easier for you to see a big tree with lots of branches and leaves than it is to see a small tree with very few branches and leaves, right? Well, it's the same for your brain. When you connect a new word or idea to things you already know you make it easier for your brain to find (see) it when you need to remember it. How can you do this? Easy. Make an Idea Web. Start with the thing you want to remember (words, ideas, sentences) in the middle of a piece of paper. Then draw lines from it like a spider's web. At the end of the line write down any ideas or words or even pictures that you think of when you say the word or idea in the middle of the page. Anything you think of is ok...just write it down.

This only takes about 2 minutes. Now all the words/ideas are getting connected in your mind. If you see or hear one of them it will help your brain remember all of the others. To make this work really well, you can talk to yourself about how each word/idea fits together with the others. The more you do this, the more connections you make. Lots of connections makes it very easy for your brain to “see” the word you want to recall when you are trying to remember it.

Remember in Chunks (collocations) – Remembering the word is important but English, like Chinese, is a language and languages are NOT just facts to be remembered – they are tools for people to USE to express their ideas and communicate. So, find examples of how each word is used in your text. Write a few words before and after the word so that you remember how it is used. For example: if your word is “arrogant” write something like this....”the tall, arrogant man” ... This will help you to remember that “arrogant” is an adjective and that it describes people. The next thing to do is to make 3 full sentences with the word to practice using it.

Use pictures – Draw small pictures that show the meaning of the word if you can. Sounds crazy, right? That's why it works. Our brains have so much normal information coming in every moment that a crazy image is a nice surprise – and you always remember surprises, don't you? Our brains are also specially designed to catch and understand visual information quickly. So, make a funny picture that

shows the meaning of the word you want to remember and your brain will remember it easily.