

## 7-4: Remembering numbers

So let's apply the link method to a little bit more difficult example. Let's say you wanted to memorize a number. Now the problem in using the link method is describing the past is there navigating. So let's see if you wanted to remember the number 3 1 3 2. All that happen is you form a link between 3 and 1 then you have to form a link between 1 and 3 again. So how do you distinguish those 2 links? And then you also have 3 and 2, so maybe you will just skip over, maybe you will just go 3 2 instead of 3 1 3 2. And so this creates a little bit of a problem using a link method with numbers. A system already been develop in memorizing that called the major system and the way it works is you sigh a phonetic consonant to each number. So the T and D sound goes for 1 so "Ta" and "Da" goes for 1. The N sound "eN" goes for number 2, M is 3, R is 4 L is 5, "CHa" "Ja" and soft G, so J Ch, these are all 6. 7 is the hard K or hard C or K sound or Cat or Cross. The 8 is the F, the Ph with the V sound, so Very or Ver, those are all 8. 9 is the P or B sound, so you have a Purse or Bag. And finally the 0 which is also then, so 0 is the S or Zed sound. Now the way this works is you just have to memorize this, unfortunately there's a little bit upfront investment in memorizing this phonetic concepts. However you could probably do that in about half an hour or an hour. And if you're using a system a lot then that would quickly becoming raid. Now I don't recommend memorizing the system I use it very infrequently but it is useful for some context. So if you are in a legal class and you just have to remember article numbers or dates, particulars status or sign, this can be much better than just road memorization.

So let's work to an example. Let's say you are trying to remember that the Magna Carta was sign in 1215. So in this case we would start in the link method then we want to have a mental image for the Magna Carta and we want to link that to the number 12 15. Now the additional step is we translate the number 1215 into words. So for the numbers, we have 1 2 1 5, which is T or D, 2 which is N and then once again T or D and 5 which is L So these are consonants and you are allowed to add vowels within the word to make any words you want. So for example you just write those words down, you can fill in any vowels in between those words to make words. So one way will be tan Doll, so tan doll T and then N and then D U is also one and the L. So 1 2 1 5. So all I have to visualize to associate this number is the magna carta being signed and I can imagine that there's an ancient, that the kings signing these fancy documents but there's all these tan dolls thousand of them just everywhere, they're very tan they like they got the sun tan of goggle marks and they are just everywhere in this room. That's how I can link tan doll and then all I have to do is decode tan doll into the word or the number I'm trying to memorize. This is the technique that you can use to memorize extremely long numbers by creating a story of it as well so bunch the numbers into sets of 3 or 4 and you can link those individual images together and use the chain method that we used in the past. So you have to remember a

hundred numbers and you might want to punch them into units of 3 or 4 to come up with a word or a very short description of each of the units and then use that. That sort of and then again 1 2 1 5 equals tan doll and then you link tan dolls to all these other images. People use this a lot so if you are in a situation you use a lot and you might have to go to phrases so you might be coming up with a translation each time, you use the same one every time you encounter certain numbers. So every time you encounter 1 2 1 5, you might use tan doll for that.

Some people will have particular pairs in every, they will have for every possible combination of 2 digit number so for all 100 possible combinations there they have a particular mental image. Some people even go further in having memorized for an entire set of 3. So they memorize thousand images that go for those 3 numbers. So that would probably be overkill, you probably need not to do that. But it just shows you this technique is what people used to memorize thousand of digits of the number or word memorize thousand of digit at random by only looking at them once. So it can be quite powerful if you dedicated yourself to it. So let's look at another example let's say you wanted to memorize the letter E, or sorry, the mathematical consonant E. So this is 2.718. So this is under shortening it to 2.718 so once again you wanted to use the system to translate this into actual consonants and turn those into words. So in this sense what we have is we have a N is the 2 and then we have 7 which is a hard K so for 2 and 7, my idea is NUKE. NUKE is going to be the word that I have and then the next is going to be T so it's a 1. And then finally appear a B sound, and so B in this case and I choose 2. So NUKE 2 is going to be the word that I associate with the mathematical concept. So when I'm forming my mental link. I could do this in 3 steps, I could just form mental picture of that exponential curve which will be my mental link with the mathematical consonant E and then I link that to NUKE exploding so classic mushroom cloud and I can imagine that there is a mushroom cloud is exploding and growing on this exponential graph and there's an actual NUKE on there. And then I can also imagine between NUKE and tube. So I can imagine this entire nuclear explosion happening inside this tube, so there a thousand tubes and each inside of them there's a little mushroom cloud exploding.

So that's the example on how I associate this number to this letter. So this is a fairly complicated system and I don't recommend learning it unless you are in a situation when you need it. Again it is out there and it is powerful so if you need to remember numbers there's no reason why you will just do it by rote use the system to memorize very complex set of numbers. And you can also mix it with the other methods. So if you just need to remember dates and you need to link them to particular ideas, particular events or materials for example then you can also use this. And as I said, it does take a little bit of practice to use the system and this a little bit of investment but it is something that can be better certainly than just doing flashcards on their own or repetition of the review