

## 7-6: Remembering vocabulary words

Specific example of the link method is when you want to remember vocabulary words. So we've been talking about the example of amino acid and we've been talking about the examples of bananas and pinecones. Let's work on an example where you're trying to learn the four languages, this is an area which inherently involves quite a bit of memorization because as much as you can understand the origin of words and why certain grammatical constructions are used, you are not going to be able to fully understand the reason behind every single word in the language. There's simply too many, and even if you did have a very good holistic understanding, that would be necessary to produce the words at the fluency that you wanted to use them in. So this is a good technique for if you need to memorize a huge amount of vocabulary particularly for a language class. I would say in general when I'm practicing language in real life I prefer not to use this technique too extensively, I would rather use the word organically and spend most of my time focusing on engaging a natural speaking or reading situation but if you are getting started with the language or if you are in a class that requires you to know a very specific vocabulary this can be a very good technique and I've used it as the very good result before. So the basic idea is very similar to what we're discussing in the link method, basically you have a target word in the language that you are trying to learn and you have an English word which is the definition that you understand.

So let's use the example from French, let's say you are trying to understand *Chavirer* which is the French word for the English word to capsize, to capsize to *Chariver*. So let's try to figure out how to form a mental link. Now again use the exact same system that you used before. You used sounds like to turn it to a mental image. So in my mind *Chavirer* sounds a little bit like shave and ear, so shaving an ear. Now, that just a curse to me, maybe you curse something differently in *Chavirer*, maybe you don't hear shave ear. But maybe you hear something different. And again with the same thing as I said in the last video, whatever comes to mind first is probably the best bet because that's also going to come to mind first when you encounter the visual symbol again. So in my mind I will imagine the ear which has a big beard, and it's shaving off its beard so it's just a big ear shaving off its beard. Now the target English word capsize is fairly easy that is just the boat that is flipping over. So I can imagine a giant ear and it's shaving its beard and then it just flips over like an entire boat capsize and that's how you can form our mental link. Now you can continue this and repeat this and this gets a little bit more tricky when the English word is also hard to visualize. So let's go to an example a Spanish one, let's say you're trying to understand the word *para siempre* and that is forever always in Spanish. So let's say you try to remember that, so in my mind that word sounds like a pair of cm, so *para siempre* pair of cm. So this is again what's just occurred to me, so I'm imagining sets of twins, this 2 little kind of elf-like creatures, they're also certainly like mermaids and they're frolicking around.

and that's what I'm imagining for *para siempre*. Now the problem is that forever is an abstract concept and it's hard to visualize. So in this case we need to create a visualize symbol for it. So again you can't use the sound like method so if you can't think of any visualization for the concept then you can't use the sound like concept but for me I wanted to use not the sound like method for forever because that's moving me even further from the word. But try to think how I visualize, how would I create a visual association to the word forever. So in my mind I'm imagining an hour glass which has sand falling except the sand coming from the bottom is twisted up to the top. Again so it continually repeats so the sense of time but it is never ending. And now I need to do is form a visualization between this so I can imagine this 2 cm's they're juggling with thousands of these twisted hour glasses and they're juggling them off to each other and they're performing a little act in front of people.

That's an example associating *para siempre* and forever. Now you can repeat this and if get good with it you can do it in generally in only about 10 to 15 seconds per association. Now obviously with me walking through it in detail, it sounds very laborious, its sound like it will going to take a few minutes to even use to every word. However I've done this with huge batches of vocabulary as you get practice with it as you've done 15 20 30. Then you can do them quite quickly, you can probably do a connection within 10 or 15 seconds and in general I founded using it on the same amount of time on this method with a little bit of we call a little bit of flashcard recall. I was able to recall the same amount of time about twice as much and just using a flashcard method so if you have to memorize hundreds of vocabulary words per language class, this could be quite effective getting through all that material without feeling overwhelmed and by this technique to memorize it. Now I also wanted to stress that this is also kind of a narrow context because you are forming an association between the words but sometimes that's not entirely useful. What you want to do when you are speaking or writing in a language you don't want necessarily have the translation there, what you want to be able to do is produce sentence, produce phrases and grammar.

So in general what I'm learning a language, I try to de emphasize this or only use it's sparingly. It's maybe good for learning words that don't come up very often but in general I would say it's better to use practice the language or the learning. But if you are in the language class and if somewhere you will going to be tested a specific vocabulary it can be quite useful. And these ideas also extend outside of languages. So if you have to remember definitions or terminology in chemistry, anatomy, biology, you can use the same idea. So, just as I said with leucine being hydrophobic you can memorize that Lucy not being able to go to the pool. You can also do the same thing here with other words that are not necessarily four language choice.