

# MNEMONICS

**Acronyms**, also known as mnemonics, are a simple way to give structure to the information you want to remember. In that way, you will better memorize the information. By using this technique, you make a word or a sentence using the first letters of the items you want to remember.

**Tip:** Use a new, **existing** word as acronym. Existing words are better remembered than non-existing words. This is because you can form an image of an existing word and images are better captured in our memory.

**Please note:** This technique works best for relatively small amounts of information.

**Below you can find some examples:**

- To remember the 10 organ systems of the human body:  
**NICER DRUMS**  
(**N**ervous, **I**ntergumentary, **C**irculatory, **E**ndocrine, **R**espiratory, **D**igestive, **R**eproductive, **U**rinary, **M**uscular, **S**keletal)
- To remember the order of taxa in biology:  
**Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species, (Variety)**  
(**D**umb **K**ids **P**refer **C**heese **O**ver **F**ried **G**reen **S**pinach)
- Mohs scale of mineral hardness 1-10:  
**Talc(=1) Gypsum(=2) Calcite(=3) Fluorite(=4) Apatite(=5) Orthoclase(=6) Quartz(=7) Topaz(=8) Corundum(=9) Diamond(=10)**  
(**T**all **G**irls **C**an **F**ight **A**nd **O**ther **Q**ueer **T**hings **C**an **D**evelop)



Sources:

Parkinson, Judy (2008). I before E (except after C): old-school ways to remember stuff. Pleasantville, N.Y.: Reader's Digest Association. ISBN 978-07621-0917-3.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ulk9BCRA83Y>