I always have trouble remembering three things: faces, names, and – I can't remember what the third thing is.
Fred Allen, American comedian

9A Can't remember, can't forget

1 GRAMMAR reported speech

a Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the wrong phrases.

1 She told the doctors she didn't remember her name. ✓
2 He said he may forget my birthday, and he did!
✗ *he might forget*
3 Lizzie told her husband she has never been to Paris.
_____
4 The manager told us it wouldn't happen again.
_____
5 You said you must stay in last night.
_____
6 Olga's son told her he's studying in his room.
_____
7 I said that I hadn't ever lived abroad.
_____
8 She told me she was writing her dissertation this summer. _____
9 You said you won't be late for dinner.
_____
10 They told me they weren't going to sell their house after all. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Complete the sentences using reported speech.

1 They told us, 'You can stay here until the end of the month.'
They told us *we could stay there until the end of the month*.

2 He told me, 'I was busy last week.'
He told me _____.

3 My parents said, 'We've booked a flight for next month.'
My parents said _____.

4 She asked him, 'Must you go now?'
She asked him _____.

5 Dan said, 'I'm working late tonight.'
Dan said _____.

6 I said, 'I don't like this restaurant.'
I said _____.

7 My girlfriend said, 'You didn't call me yesterday.'
My girlfriend said _____.

8 I asked my boyfriend, 'Are you coming tomorrow?'
I asked my boyfriend _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

c Complete the sentences using reported speech.

1 'Can you give me your phone number, please?'
He asked me *to give him my phone number*.

2 'Go to bed.'
Denise told her children _____.

3 'Where did you learn to speak English?'
The interviewer asked me _____.

4 'Do you understand the instructions?'
The teacher asked us _____.

5 'Don't call me at work.'
Lisa asked her boyfriend _____.

6 'What time will you be home?'
My husband asked me _____.

7 'Please make less noise.'
My neighbour asked us _____.

8 'Don't forget your doctor's appointment.'
John's wife told him _____.

2 READING

a Read the article quickly. Do you use any of these techniques?

Memory techniques

Some methods for remembering information date back centuries and are still useful today. In fact, you may have used some of them yourself! The following are four of the most common memory techniques.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A THE METHOD OF LOCI



This technique for improving your memory was originally used in ancient Rome and Greece. With this method, you use familiar locations, like your own home, in order to remember a list of items, such as a things-to-do list. If 'buy milk' was the first thing on your list, you might imagine coming home from work and seeing some milk bottles outside the front door. If the second thing is 'post birthday card', you then picture the letterbox on the door as you walk into the house with your milk bottles.

B THE CHUNKING TECHNIQUE



This method is most often used for memorizing long sets of numbers or for the spelling of complicated words. With the chunking technique, you can break down a huge amount of information into smaller parts, or chunks. Apparently, it is then easier to recall this information when you need it. For example, if someone tells you that their phone number is 0044 1614960998, and you don't have a pen and paper to note it down, you can memorize it in chunks like this: 00 – 44 – 16 – 14 – 96 – 09 – 98.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C THE PYTHAGORAS METHOD



Pythagoras is best known as a mathematician, but it seems he was also busy developing a technique to improve memory. Apparently, every night he recalled what happened during that day to help him remember these events in as much detail as possible. After a while, he could recall more than one day at once, which helped him retain these events for months or even years. This method is just as applicable today, as your teachers know well. That's why they keep telling you to study for exams weeks in advance.

D USING MNEMONICS



People use mnemonics for all kinds of things, but they are particularly useful for memorizing your PIN. We are constantly told that we must not write our PIN down on a piece of paper, so how are you supposed to remember it? One of the easiest ways is to associate the numbers with the letters of the alphabet, so that 1 = A, 2 = B, and so on. You can then use the letters – in order – to make a four-word sentence in which each word begins with each of the letters. For example, the letters representing the PIN 3825 would be CHBE, so your sentence could be 'Cats Have Big Eyes'.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Read the article again and answer the questions with A, B, C, or D.

Which technique…

1 is the best for remembering lists of words? ___
2 was invented by one individual? ___
3 involves transforming numbers into letters? ___
4 is the best for remembering things that happened a long time ago? ___
5 makes something easier to remember by dividing it into bits? ___
6 is the best for remembering PINs? ___
7 is named after a Latin word? ___
8 is best for remembering phone numbers? ___

c Match the highlighted words and phrases in the text to the definitions below.

1 well known to you _____
2 separate something into different parts _____
3 relevant _____
4 very old, belonging to a distant period of history _____
5 imagine something visually _____
6 words, sentences, poems, etc. that help you to remember something _____
7 keep in your memory _____
8 before a particular time _____
9 make a connection between things in your mind _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 VOCABULARY & PRONUNCIATION
word families

a Complete the sentences using a word in the same word family as the verb in brackets.

1 My husband has a terrible *memory* for names. (remember)
2 I used to be awful at history because it was so hard for me to _____ dates. (remember)
3 The politician's _____ were fascinating – she had such an interesting life. (remember)
4 We laid some flowers at the war _____ in the main square. (remember)
5 My grandmother is extremely _____. She often doesn't know what day of the week it is. (forget)
6 The most _____ day of my life is probably the day my son was born. (remember)
7 The concert was _____. It's the best one of his I've ever been to. (forget)

b Write the answers from **a** in the chart.

Stress on first syllable	Stress on second syllable	Stress on third syllable
memory		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 LISTENING



a iChecker You are going to hear a radio programme about a competition called the World Memory Championships. Listen and number the information in the order you hear it.

- ☐ the first competition
- ☐ the current world champion
- ☐ the events in the competition
- ☐ the venue
- ☐ the first world champion
- ☐ the competitors

b Listen again and answer the questions.

1 When will the next World Championships take place? _____

2 How many disciplines are there? _____

3 How long does it take Simon Reinhard to remember the order of a pack of cards? _____

4 How many numbers did Johannes Mallow remember in 15 minutes? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 How many times has Dominic O'Brien been world champion? _____

6 How many packs of cards can Dominic remember the order of? _____

7 When was the first competition held? _____

8 What nationality were the founders? _____

9 How many different countries take part? _____

10 Where is the competition usually held? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS