



The five senses – **sight, touch, smell, hearing and taste** – are one set of tools the brain uses to do its job. Then the brain has to figure out what the sense information means, and for that, it needs another tool – **memory.**

Memory is information stored in the brain that tells the brain what the signals from the senses mean. Here's an illustration of memory and the senses at work.

Imagine this case:

With your sense of sight, you see a man in a suit walk into the room. With your sense of hearing, you hear people speaking respectfully to him. With your sense of touch, you feel the man shake your hand. But, without your memory, you still don't know what's happening.

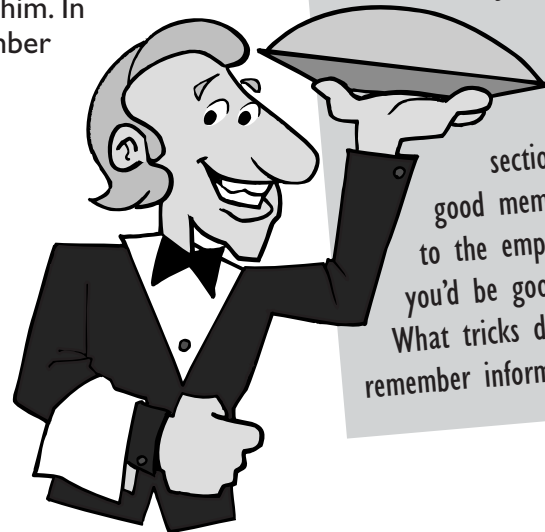
Your memories are necessary to add up all the information from your senses to let you know that you are meeting the leader of your country. Your memory reminds you what the leader looks like and how you should act if you meet him. In addition, your ability to create new memories is necessary for you to remember this exciting event after it occurs.

Use News To Build Skills

Learning standard: evaluating careers

Have you ever been to a restaurant where your server remembered all the orders without writing them down? Next time that happens, ask the server how he or she remembered.

Find a job in the Help Wanted section that requires a good memory. Write a letter to the employer telling why you'd be good for the job. What tricks do you use to remember information?



What happened here?

Probably the second time you could remember all of them. Why?

Most people can remember between 5 and 7 "chunks" of information for a short time. In the second part of this memory game, you could probably remember more letters because they were grouped into bigger "chunks," that is, actual words. Numbers are another example of "chunks" of information that people need to remember every day. When you look up a phone number and remember it long enough to dial it, you are remembering 7 – 10 number "chunks."

So, when you have to remember something, try finding a way to "chunk" it and to connect it to other things you have to remember.

Brain Builders Challenge #7

Test Your Memory



Read the following line of letters and try to remember as many of the letters as you can. Look away for 30 seconds, then write down the letters you remember.

N I E R A S N I R G N I T

How many did you remember? _____

Now look at the letters in reverse:

T I N G R I N S A R E I N

How many letters could you remember this time? _____