

### For Instructors: Memory Activity Directions

**Print** equal numbers of the Memory Activity Handout 1 and Memory Activity Handout 2.

**Distribute** Memory Activity Handout 1 to one side of the class, and Memory Activity Handout 2 to the other side of the class.

***It is important that students believe they are all receiving the same handout.***

Instruct students to **read** their instructions. Since there are 2 sets of instructions, DO NOT review the instructions with the class.

**Read aloud** these sentences pausing long enough between each phrase for students to record their ratings.

1. The noisy fan blew the papers off the table.
2. The green frog jumped into the swimming pool.
3. The slithering snake slithered down a steep sliding board.
4. The crafty surgeon won the daily double.
5. The skiing trumpeter started a gigantic avalanche.
6. The plump chef liked to jump rope.
7. The captured crook liked to do difficult crossword puzzles.
8. The small child sat under the lilac bush.
9. The medieval minstrel strolled along the babbling brook.
10. The distressed teacher ate a wormy apple.
11. The chocolate choo-choo train chugged down the licorice tracks.
12. The marching soldier lit a cigarette.
13. The long-haired woman had a phobia about scissors.
14. The cheerful choirboy sang off-key.
15. The toothless bathing beauty hardly ever smiled.
16. The sweaty gardener was wearing a scarf and mittens.
17. The spotted dog was sleeping in the sun.
18. The lanky leprechaun wore lavender leotards.
19. The bearded plumber was flushed with success.
20. The novice camper got lost in the woods.

Next, have students **turn** their papers over, **number** 1 to 20, and **answer** the following questions, which you read to them.

*Do not give the answers until the end.*

**Read aloud** these questions. The answers, which you will not read until the end, are in parenthesis.

1. Who won the daily double? (The crafty surgeon)
2. What chugged down the licorice track? (the chocolate choo-choo)
3. Who liked to do difficult crossword puzzles? (the captured crook)
4. Who sang off-key. (the cheerful choirboy)
5. What blew the papers off the table? (the noisy fan)
6. Who hardly ever smiled? (the toothless bathing beauty)
7. What was sleeping in the sun? (the silly snake)
8. What was sleeping in the sun? (the spotted dog)
9. Who strolled along the babbling brook? (the medieval minstrel)
10. Who was flushed with success? (the bearded plumber)
11. What jumped into the swimming pool? (the green frog)
12. Who lit a cigarette? (the marching soldier)
13. Who got lost in the woods? (the novice camper)
14. Who started a gigantic avalanche? (the skiing trumpeter)
15. Who wore lavender leotards? (the lanky leprechaun)
16. Who liked to jump rope? (the plump chef)
17. Who had a phobia about scissors? (the long-haired woman)
18. Who sat under a lilac bush? (the small child)
19. Who ate a wormy apple? (the distressed teacher)
20. Who wore a scarf and mittens? (the sweaty gardener)

**Read aloud** the correct answers, above in parenthesis and have the students score themselves. (**Anything close counts.**)

**Explain** that there were two slightly different sets of instructions.

Half the class was instructed to rate the sentences based on how the words sounded.

Half the class was instructed to rate the sentences based on how well they could form a vivid mental picture.

**Tell** students that in order to see whether auditory or visual memory is more effective, you want to tally the score for each group.

**Write** the scores for each group separately on the board as students **call them out**.

The differences between the groups' scores will be highly significant with virtually no overlap.

The acoustic encoding group typically gets from 2 to 14 correct and the visual encoding group from 12 to 20 right.

**Ask** questions about what they learned and how they can use the information to help them learn more effectively...

*\*This activity is adapted from an exercise by Don Irwin and Janet Simons, Developmental Educational Institute Des Moines, IA.*