

Hello, I'm Kate D'Ore, I'm here to tell you about the second part of the Major System. The first part described how [numbers 0-9](#) could be represented by images based on 10 sounds that consonants make.

Although the Shape system and the [Rhyming system](#) also have images from 1-10, the [Major system](#) is important because it takes numbering up from 0 to 100 and beyond which is invaluable if you want to memorize long numbers - card and bank numbers, dates, prime numbers, pi, and the periodic table or any long list. Also, never forget how impressive it is if you can remember the names of delegates at a conference, people in a workshop, or students in school. I once gave a presentation at the BBC and was able to quote, not only everybody's name but also their telephone extension number, this was especially notable as many of them did not know the latter themselves.

To remember the images for 10 – 100 is not nearly as daunting as it initially seems.

To create images from 9 to 100

To create images for double numbers just put the sounds of the first 9 consonants together. Remember that we leave out the vowel sounds in words. So take the consonants and try out the 5 vowel sounds in the middle until you come up with a word that can be represented by a strong image.

An easy example to give you the idea is 22. 2 is represented by the sound 'n' and so 22 will be n-n. If you add in the vowels, you have nan, nen, nin, non, and nun. Of these nun is the strongest image.

I won't fill up this session with a further list of suggested images but I will add them to a separate podcast with all images from 10 to 100. Also on my website Remember Word4Word which I am creating. I will have a blog on that site too and an opportunity for questions and answers, workshops, and private consultations.

Now test yourself. For math enthusiasts around the world, March 14 is [Pi Day](#), honouring the number pi, which is the ratio of circumference to diameter of a circle.

Learning Pi

Many people around the world have been interested enough in this number to see how many digits they can remember, and serious memorizers can recite thousands of numbers for many hours. I was going to give you the world champion, but I suggest you look it up yourself as it keeps changing and now a time element has entered in and the latest champion has to recite accurately about 6 digits a second.

This is a challenging exercise that you too can try, and you really will be able to impress your friends with your extraordinary feat of memory.

Here are the first 20 digits of pi following 3:

3.14159265358979323846

First, split the decimal numbers up into two. Pi begins with 3 so start imagining a big tree.

- the first 2 digits following 3 is 14- 1 4

Think back to the Major system and 1 is a t or d sound. Think of the Major drinking tea and the sound t.

4 – R (rye), think of ma drinking rye whisky. Put T & R together, and the image is Tyre (of course it could equally be TaR, but a tyre swinging from a big tree works well.

3.14

- 15 - 15 is 1-T and 5 – L (law) image Towell (of course it could equally be TaiL or TeLL – not such a strong image or TiLL, OK if it fits with your story or ToLL booth, Ok if it fits with your story, but Towel works for me: after swinging on a tyre from a big tree you are hot and sweaty so wipe your face with a towel.

3.1415

- 92 -9 is B (bee) and 2 is n (Noah) and the image is BiN. A good image as you can put things in the bin.

Throw the sweaty towel in the bin

3.141592

- 65 – 6 is ch (6 shoe) and 5 is L -Chill. Image anything covered in ice or snow

It snows on top of the bin

3.14159265

- 35 – 3 m (ma) and 5 L – MaiL. A postman, I like to think of Postman Pat and get that song going in my head.

Postman comes along and dumps his mail in the bin.

3.1415926535

I worked in the post office for two Christmas running, and actually, one of the young postmen did this – hid all the mail in his wardrobe. His nickname was Ringo, but I can't remember why, however, it leads me to the next number

- 89

8- F and 9 b Fab. Now for me that is always the Beatles – the Fab Four, so my errant postman segues well into this number

3.141592653589

- 79

7 - c and 9 b. CaB

I picture that famous photo of the Beatles racing down the road to escape their fans and they dive into a cab

3.14159265358979

- 32 - M N MaN

At first, I had difficulty finding a strong image for MaN. Eventually, I came up with the *Green Giant*. My thinking went: Man - Green Man - Green Giant. It is a good image because it is big and green - which is unusual. Also, the power of advertising means that I have 'ho, ho, ho' ringing in my ears. If you have difficulty coming up with strong images for numbers, just relax and see what pops into your mind. It doesn't matter how you came up with the image but it must give you the right number. Don't fall into the trap of just making up images, you must be able to trace your thinking back to those initial rules for 0-9 and the sounds that go with them.

3.1415926535897932

Having hailed the cab the Green Giant cannot fit in. A film crew comes along and starts to film the fiasco.

Next digits: 38 3 8.

- 38 MV - this time I choose the 'v' sound for 8. Remember the golden gate covered with ivy. You could use the f sound and have Muff or even Mafia, but I like the 'v' sound for 8 because it gives the image MoVie. And movie can fit in with so many stories.

3.14 15 92 65 35 89 79 32 38

The director of the film is sitting in his director's chair watching the film. He is RICH and also very spotty RASH

Our last numbers: 46 4 'r' and 6 'ch, or sh'

- 46 RCH - RiCH or RaSH

3.14 15 92 65 35 89 79 32 38 46

There you are, pi to 20 digits. Check through that you have an image for each of those double numbers adding the linking story, mine, or one of your own. Then relax and repeat the pi to 20 digits. Incidentally, saying things aloud is an extra memory aid.

Now try this out with your bank account number and credit card numbers and then important dates in history. Practice this and these images for numbers will become very familiar, I promise. I learned 500 artists when they were born and when they

died that is 1,000 dates, remember this is the woman who couldn't remember her own personalized license plate – a number with 3 digits of 1 and 2.

I hope you will have found that exercise quite easy, once you have understood the principle involved. If you want to challenge yourself to more than 20 digits the site to go for is this one that will give you up to [10,000 digits](#).

If you are interested in learning History, then you will need these numbers to learn the dates. You will probably not need the thousands as the context of the events will give you the century, or if you do need it, you can

- Either run 2 double numbers together with a linking story: 1066 – toes cha-cha – Normans and English dancing and treading on each other's toes.

Or

- Numbers from 100 up to 9999 are covered by Tony Buzan, in his book 'Master Your Memory' which introduces 'The Self-Enhancing Master Memory Matrix (SEM3)' which gives suggestions for taking numbers up to 9999.

Using Buzan's system, I found images for 100-999 easy to remember, especially as they use the Major System 1-9 letters to begin each hundred. However, I struggled with the rest of the matrix, and for 1000 onwards I found it easier to run 2 numbers together as I suggested around dates. Everything I have said so far, I have tested over and over and so there is little point in my putting in the full matrix if I do not use it all, but his book is excellent with several detailed lists you can learn, so if you are interested, do buy it.

This first part of the matrix from 100 to 999 I do find useful and I do use it. I have used 44 - rr - rower as an example.

100-199: **D**inosaur – I tend to use an image of Dino from The Flintstones, which shows my age, but perhaps setting your images in Jurassic Park would be a good idea, 144 – Rowing in Jurassic Park to get away from T Rex.

200-299: **N**obility – 244 – I just put a crown on whoever is rowing.

300-399: **M**oonlight – 344 – I had difficulty making moonlight a strong enough image until I remembered the Moonlight Sonata, so now Beethoven is my image for the 300s. It would also work very well for the number 327 – Beethoven Knocking (Vth symphony, the beginning said to resemble Fate knocking)

400-499: **R**avine – 444 – rowing at the base of a ravine. Very visual, I use the Grand Canyon.

500-599: **L**ightening – Another image I had difficulty with until I thought of Zeus and his bolts of lightning. 544 – Zeus rowing, you could also add in Benjamin Franklyn and his kite.

600-699: **C**hurch – easy, 644, rowing in a church.

700-799: **C**oncord – Oh dear! How sad, but such a strong image and useful, put people or things in the plane. Living near Heathrow, I used to watch Concord take to the skies and think ‘one day’ but it was not to be. 744, rowing along the aisle of Concord.

800-899: **F**ire – 844, rowing away from a fire.

900-999: **P**icture – frame your images in a picture or place them in an Art Gallery.

I find that when remembering numbers, I will chop and change with the 3 different systems – shape, rhyme, and major – choosing which image fits in most easily with what I want to remember, and I hope you will find the same.

In a further podcast, I will discuss the second important part of Memorizing: that of Retention and Recall. And I will cover that in the next series, which is all about Using Mnemonics.

Finally, I promised the list of images for words from 10 to 100. It was too long for this session and I am putting it on my final podcast for this series called, Major System 3 images for numbers 10 to 90. So look at that for inspiration or use your own images. **I repeat it doesn't matter what image you end up with, but you must follow the Major Rules to get there.** The only exception would be if you already have a strong image for any of those numbers. But it must be an exception- following the Rules also strengthens your memory for those initial 10 numbers as you may have noticed when we did pi.

So, use it or lose it. These are all the mnemonic techniques you will need and all you need to do is practice them. I hope to see you next time.

And for now, I hope to see you soon.