

Showing How Information is Organized

Understanding the relationships among information- how information fits into larger systems- is one of the greatest aids to memory. To illustrate these relationships you can:

1. Show charts, patterns, and systems.
 - In a foreign language class, you can group together verbs that have similar behaviors.
 - In a philosophy course, you can chart the development of ideas through history.
 - Ask students to draw a map of how information relates to their lives/other things they know.

2. Show how information fits into knowledge in general.
 - Explain how a concept is used in current, cutting-edge fieldwork.
 - Ask students about similarities between a concept and their everyday experiences. (Example: how is the Pythagorean Theorem related to finding out if gossip is true?)

3. Emphasize associations and relationships.
 - Try to anticipate students' associations (based on common and cultural knowledge) and show how information is similar to and different from their understandings.
 - Ask students to relate concepts to familiar experiences in other classes (or to current events) and to develop personal "cues" that will remind them of concepts.