

The limits of human memory



LAST TIME : Unusual Questions

TODAY : Human Memory

VOCABULARY : remember, remind

WARMING UP : Let's try a few unusual questions together :

1. When did time begin?
2. Did we invent math or did we discover it?
3. Where does a thought go when it's forgotten?
4. Do we have free will or is everything predestined?
5. Is there life after death?
6. What are dreams?
7. What is the goal of humanity?
8. Which orange came first – the fruit or the color?
9. Who decided what's right and wrong?
10. What is freedom and does it really exist?
11. Which came first – the chicken or the egg?
12. What age should a person be considered old enough to die of old age?
13. How do you know you're not crazy and just hallucinating your whole life?
14. To what degree have you been able to control the course that your life has taken?

15. Is the Earth alive?
16. Are soul mates a real thing?
17. What is the purpose and meaning of time?

EXERCISE

Complete the blank in the question;

1. _____ did you do that for?
2. _____ dress do you want to wear, the red one or the blue one?
3. _____ opened the door?
4. _____ keys are these? – I think they're dad's.
5. _____ does this CD player work?
6. _____ is bothering you?
7. _____ is the car?
8. _____ money do you have in your bank account?
9. _____ are the sisters going to leave?
10. _____ is your favorite actress?
11. _____ did the party last? – Almost two hours.
12. _____ did you do in Australia?
13. _____ jacket is this? - I think it's mine.
14. _____ do they normally do their homework?
15. _____ don't you get up earlier? It's so sunny outside.
16. _____ do you do on weekends?
17. _____ is your favorite singer?
18. _____ was the flight? – Oh, it was great.
19. _____ are you from?
20. _____ textbook did you use last summer?
21. _____ do you normally get to school?
22. _____ did you find her? – Yesterday evening. She was in the park
23. _____ does she teach?
24. _____ have you been all the time? – At the playground.

25. _____ can John ask if he wants to go to the university?
26. _____ was the play? – It was great.
27. _____ do you want to eat? Pasta and cheese.
28. _____ did you leave your keys?
29. _____ one do you prefer? – The red one.
30. _____ do you go to the gym?

Exercise 2

Ask the question about the section **in red** of the sentence.

1. Columbus discovered **America** in 1492.
2. I graduated from school **two years ago**.
3. They were ready. (yes – no)
4. **The mechanic** repaired the car last week.
5. He is always late **because he never sets the alarm clock**.
6. I watched the film yesterday (yes – no)
7. Mandy phoned her uncle **last Tuesday**.
8. You can go swimming after lunch. (yes – no)
9. I am going to wear the **yellow** dress at the ball.
10. **Ronaldo** is the best football player in the world.
11. The library is **right across the street**.
12. The shops open **at 9 in the morning**.
13. We need a nanny **because my wife has too much to do**.
14. Her favorite color is **red**.
15. That book is **mine**.
16. You have **5 minutes** to finish the test.
17. The university is **about 2 km from the house**.
18. I take **Bus 52** to work.
19. My flight leaves Rome at **7.39**.
20. The red shirt costs **\$99**.
21. I have eaten my lunch. (yes – no)

22. That pen is **mine**.
23. John is talking to **my sister**.
24. **The traffic in the city** makes me nervous.
25. We have to start work **at three o'clock**

HUMAN MEMORY

EXERCISE 1. Complete the questions below with the correct prepositions.

1. What is your happiest childhood memory?
2. Do you think you have a good memory?
3. Do you remember smells and sounds?
4. Do you have a good memory for dates and names?
5. Are you good at remembering feelings?
6. What are some things that are hard to remember?
7. What are some things that are easy to remember?
8. What is your first memory of school?
9. What is your favorite memory?
10. What is something you can never seem to remember?

REMEMBER

She suddenly *remembered* that her cell phone was in her other bag.

I can *remember* when his birthday is.

I don't *remember* signing a contract.

Did you *remember* to do the shopping?

REMIND

Could you *remind* Paul about dinner on Sunday?

Please *remind* me to post this letter.

That song always *reminds me of* our holiday in Mexico.



3. Discuss the questions.

- What is the earliest memory you can recall?
- Can you recollect the name of your biology teacher from school?
- Can you recall what the weather was like last Friday?
- Do you remember what you ate for breakfast last weekend?
- Do you remember what day Valentine's day was last year?



6. You're going to watch a **video** [<https://youtu.be/hpTCZ-hO6il>] presenting the story of a person who has superior autobiographical memory. What is it and how does it work?

7. Watch the **video** again (to 4:10) and answer the questions.

a) What is Marilu Henner famous for?

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b) How many people in the world have a superior autobiographical memory (as of 2018)?

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c) What is superior autobiographical memory compared to in terms of how it works?

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d) How does Marilu describe how her memory works?

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8. Discuss the questions below.

- Would you like to have such an impressive memory as Marilu Henner?
- If you had such a good memory, how would you use it? Would it be more interesting to remember all of your personal events or all of the major public events?
- Some of the people who have superior autobiographical memory say that it is a blessing and a curse. What might be the disadvantages of being able to remember every single moment of one's life?
- Do you think that thanks to people who have that ability we might be able to unlock some mysteries we still don't understand about the human brain?

ACTIVITY

Select a method to improve your memory

read out loud + re-copy

1/Explain the concept / method

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2/Describe your experiment

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3/Your feedback

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Did Did Go on Me May

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