

# Creating meaningful groups and the memory palace technique

Barbara Oakley, PhD

- Garlic



- Rose



- Hawthorn



- Mustard

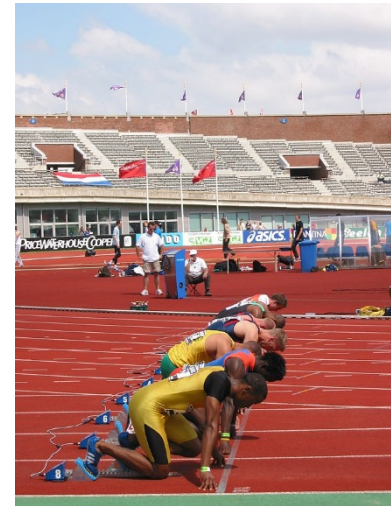


**GRAHAM**

1965

11.0

75



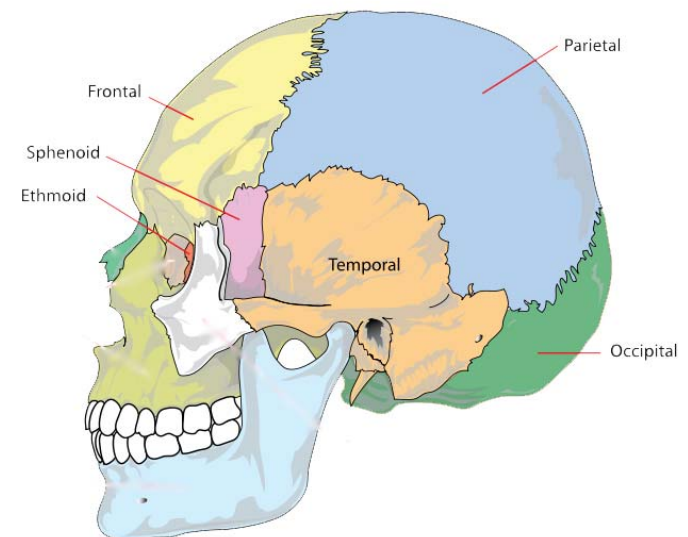
# Memorable mnemonics

Some Lovers Try Positions that They Can't Handle

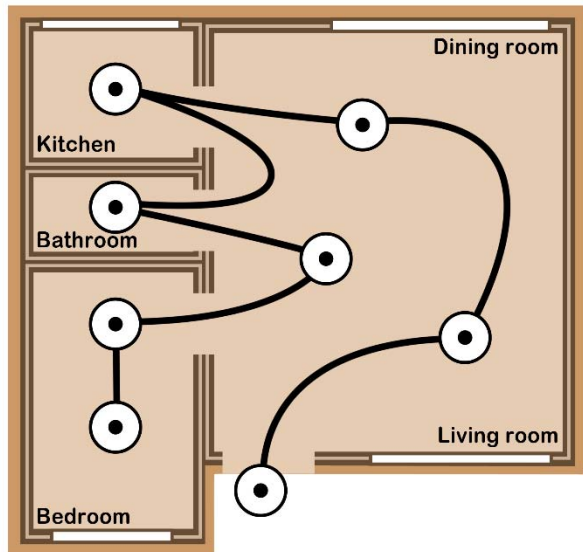
A = Scaphoid B = Lunate  
C = Triquetrum D = Pisiform  
E = Trapezium F = Trapezoid  
G = Capitate H = Hamate



Old People From Texas Eat Spiders



# Memory palace technique







# How chunks, long-term working memory and templates offer a cognitive explanation for neuroimaging data on expertise acquisition: A two-stage framework

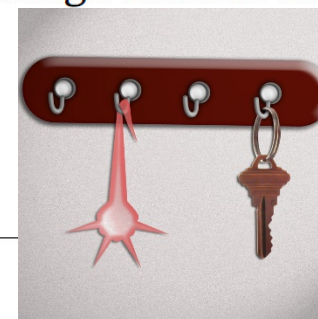
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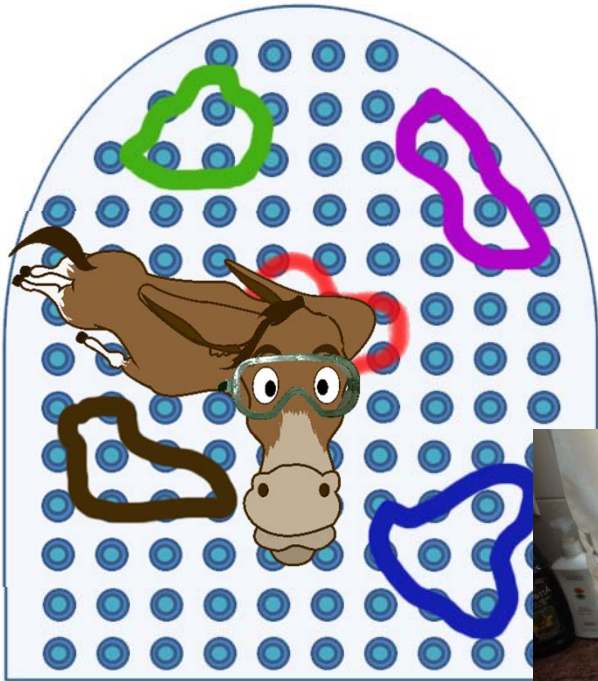
Brain functional reorganization

Working memory

## ABSTRACT

Our review of research on PET and fMRI neuroimaging of experts and expertise acquisition reveals two apparently discordant patterns in working-memory-related tasks. When experts are involved, studies show activations in brain regions typically activated during long-term memory tasks that are not observed with novices, a result that is compatible with functional brain reorganization. By contrast, when involving novices and training programs, studies show a decrease in brain regions typically activated during working memory tasks, with no functional reorganization. We suggest that the latter result is a consequence of practice periods that do not allow important structures to be completely acquired: knowledge structures (i.e., Ericsson and Kintsch's retrieval structures; Gobet and Simon's templates) and in a lesser way, chunks. These structures allow individuals to improve performance on working-memory tasks, by enabling them to use part of long-term memory as working memory, causing a cerebral functional reorganization. Our hypothesis is that the two brain activation patterns observed in the literature are not discordant, but involve the same process of expertise acquisition in two stages: from decreased activation to brain functional reorganization. The dynamic of these two physiological stages depend on the two above-mentioned psychological constructs: chunks and knowledge structures.

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$$f = ma$$





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- Guida, A., F. Gobet, H. Tardieu, and S. Nicolas. "How Chunks, Long-Term Working Memory and Templates Offer a Cognitive Explanation for Neuroimaging Data on Expertise Acquisition: A Two-Stage Framework." *Brain and Cognition* 79, no. 3 (Aug 2012): 221-44.
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## Relevant Readings

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