

## Core Principle: Memorization tips

### Lecture

By the time a speaker creates and edits a script, they already know most of the speech. But, memorizing a speech still seems intimidating and overwhelming. For new speakers in particular, “how do I memorize a whole speech” is one of the most common questions coaches receive. Memorizing a speech requires effort. While this curriculum cannot save a speaker from effort, it *can* demystify and equip speakers with tools to aid memorization.



#### 1. Practice out loud.

During each practice, deliver the speech twice or more. The first time through, speakers should deliver the speech with the script handy. Reference the script as needed. The second time through, speakers should deliver the speech from memory as much as possible. Speakers who practice their speech out loud twice a day can often memorize a speech in as little as one to two weeks.

#### 2. Have someone prompt you

Deliver practiced speeches to someone holding the script. Having someone present with the script can greatly speed up the practicing process. Have them correct *each* mistake. Having an audience lets the speaker focus on practicing verbal and non-verbal delivery without worrying about the script. If there is a mistake, the prompter will say so.



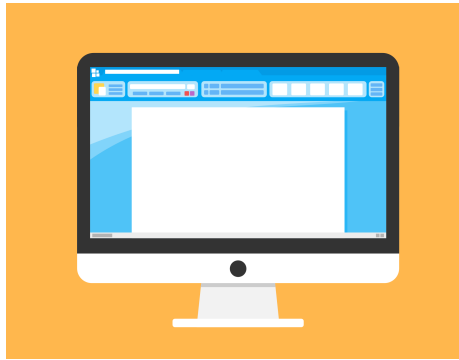
#### 3. Record the speech and listen to it



Auditory learners memorize best by listening. Consider recording the speech and listening to it once a day. Not only will this enhance memorization, it serves as a fantastic tool for speakers to analyze their verbal delivery. Does a pause seem out of place? Does a monotone vocal pattern pop up? Does the speech feel flat and without noticeable tones? These things are easy to spot when speakers listen to themselves.

#### 4. Focus on sections at a time

The proverbial elephant is best eaten one bite at a time. Eating the whole thing at once can be overwhelming, especially for new students. Mentally divide the speech into 5 or 6 sections and memorize one chunk at a time. Commit extra practice time to consistently problematic areas. Practice delivering the problematic area with and without the script daily to enhance memorization.

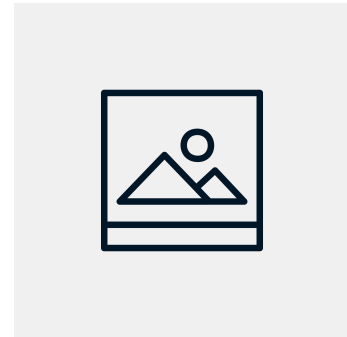


## 5. Visualize sections

After spending time creating and editing the script, speakers know what it looks like. Visual learners can use that familiarity to their advantage. When memorizing a section, bring to mind what the section looks like. Visualize the sentence it starts with. Some speakers benefit from color coding the first sentence of each paragraph, making them stick in their mind for easier recall.

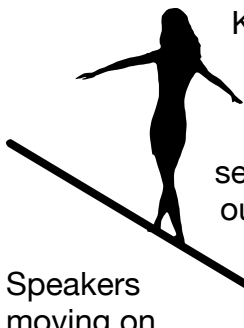
## 6. Relate sections to images and visualize those images

Some visual learners take it a step further by associating a section with a physical image. If the introduction is a story about the speaker's dog, create a mental connection between a picture of the dog and the section. Every time the speaker thinks of the dog, they will think of the section's content.



The easiest way to make a mental connection between a section and an image is *putting the image in the script*. If a big picture of the speaker's smiling golden retriever is right next to the introduction, it is much easier to think of the image and then remember the words that follow.

## 7. Movement.



Kinesthetic learners memorize best by integrating movement into the learning process. Researchers have found that writing using a pen/pencil and paper boosts student's memory retention and is more effective than writing on a computer. If there are particular lines or sentences speakers struggle with, take a piece of paper and write them out!

Speakers moving on point, it

can also associate words with movement on stage. Practice stage while delivering the speech. As the speaker moves from will trigger the next line in the speaker's head.

## **Big Take-Away: Practice consistently**

Eating an elephant one bite at a time works, but only if you sit down consistently to do it. If you stagger your elephant meals over weeks at a time, the elephant will be rotten and moldy by the end.

Consistent practice makes memorizing a speech possible for all speakers, even brand new ones.



## Notes

### Memorization tips

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### Big Take-Away

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## **Application: Concentration**

*Note: While some skills can be illustrated through a drill, memorization should be done by direct application. Utilize this drill, but more importantly, go memorize your speech!*

**Goal:** Build memory skills in a more approachable format

**Materials needed:** A deck of cards.

**Instructions:** Place 52 cards face down on a table (no jokers). Flip over two at a time. If the two cards are the same number/value, leave them face up. If not, return them facedown and try again. Continue until all 52 cards are face up.

As students become better at remembering card placement, they can continue challenging themselves with several variations. First, place the cards in uneven rows. The human mind is good at remembering near rows but struggles to remember information in a disorganized format. Second, only accept pairs with the same color (both must be red or both must be black). This creates more demanding requirements for memory.