Memorisation techniques

**Congratulations on choosing to study a second language! Your life will never be the same again!**

*As you may already know, there are soooo many fantastic benefits for learning a second language. There are also soooo many different techniques when learning. This is a compilation of different strategies that you may like to try out and adopt. Have fun!*

- Write out a summary and example sentences.
- Re-write words over and over again- give yourself a quiz. With the words that you struggle with- test again!
- Hang new vocabulary and grammar on the back of the bathroom door, on the fridge (anywhere your family will let you).
- Come up with a mnemonic – does the Japanese/German word sound like an English word (make it funny if you like - you are more likely to remember it!)
- Go for a walk or jog somewhere with a list of the grammar/vocabulary you want to learn and repeat them out loud to yourself.

- When you teach it you learn it! Teach your family members. Maybe your dog would like to know another language 😊
- Highlight bookwork (photocopy textbook and highlight main points, grammar).
- Flashcards. (Question and Answer or word and translation).
- Look Cover Write Check.
- Listen to as many CDs as possible (listen to it while helping mum clean the house 😊)
Online flashcards - Quizlet.
Make up a song to help you remember.
Use abbreviations (or acrostic poems)
Create your own language working space - hang words, pictures up on the wall (that means taking down the picture of your boyfriend/girlfriend and replacing it with your language words! Just joking! It might help you better concentrate however...)
Come up with your own example dialogues.
Listen to the radio.

Watch Anime, read Manga.
Watch German/Japanese News.
Study on the train or on the bus on the way to school - make use of your free time
Get a Japanese/German iphone App.
101 podcast – sign up to language podcasts. You may find free ones or have to pay some $$.

Have an effective study routine.
CHOOSE to be organised. What does this look like?
Use a diary! Brush your teeth and comb your hair (Just joking... I haven’t seen you in person so you never know!) This means setting clear goals for yourself, knowing when what is due and how you will get there.
ALWAYS do your weekly work and THEN SOME. By ‘Then some’ I am referring to going back to previous learning material and revising it (go the extra step).
Get a pen pal from the country (if you want to do this- it is an effective way to learn. Let your teacher know and maybe they can help arrange this).
Write a diary in the language. Even if it is just two lines- it will help you to get thinking in the language- and relate it to real life.
Write out a ‘Vision Statement’ and hang it on the wall. Why are you learning a language? What are your personal goals by the end of the year?

Understand and know the benefits of learning a second language – it just might inspire you.

Make a mind map – your brain remembers things in schemas (topics). So, if you make a mind map it will help your brain to categorise the vocabulary and break it up into smaller sections to make it easier to remember.

Think about how these ideas are laid out for you - they are broken up into several boxes. If we break our work up into sections it will help our brain to remember and process the information much better.

All of these ideas should help you to “ace” your subjects!

Viel Glück! Ganbatte!

Lastly, HAVE FUN! It is very enjoyable learning a second language and be able to communicate with people from different backgrounds and cultures. Let me know how you go with these strategies.