

Using Acronyms to Remember Information

Forming an acronym is a good strategy to use to remember information in any order. An acronym is a word that is formed from the first letter of each fact to be remembered. It can be a real word or a nonsense word you are able to pronounce.

Here is how to form an acronym.

- **Write the facts you need to remember.**
- **Underline the first letter of each fact.** If there is more than one word in a fact, underline the first letter of only the first word in the fact.
- **Arrange the underlined letters to form an acronym that is a real word or a nonsense word you can pronounce.**

"HOMES" is an example of an acronym that is a real word you can use to remember the names of the five Great Lakes: Michigan, Erie, Superior, Ontario, Huron: In HOMES, H is the first letter of Huron and helps you remember that name; O is the first letter of Ontario, and so on.

"Telk" is an acronym that can be used to remember the following animals: tiger, lion, elephant, kangaroo. "Telk" is not a real word, but you can easily pronounce it. You could also have used "kelt" as an acronym. Notice that in this example, you cannot form a real word using the first letter of each fact to be remembered.

Sometimes two or more of the facts you must remember each begin with the same first letter. For example, the acronym "capp" can be used to remember the following fruits: pear, apple, peach, cherry. You can use the first letter "p" in the acronym to remember either "pear" or "peach" and the second letter "p" to remember the other.

Use the acronym strategy as a way to remember information.

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