A **mnemonic** , or **mnemonic device**, is any learning technique that helps retain information. Mnemonics aim to translate information into a form that the human brain can hold onto better than its original form. Commonly encountered mnemonics are often used for lists and in [auditory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auditory_system) form, such as short poems, [acronyms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acronym), or memorable phrases, but mnemonics can also be used for other types of information and in [visual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual) or [kinesthetic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinesthetic) forms. Their use is based on the observation that the human mind more easily remembers ‘relatable' information, rather than more abstract or impersonal forms of information.