

earworms

French Memory Hooks

A large part of language learning, especially in the first stages has to do with memorising words and phrases and the sounds of those words and phrases. Of course, there is a lot more to learning than just memorising, and earworms introduces the learner to the so-called lexical approach to language learning, i.e. decoding the language (breaking down the language into its component parts and comparing the word order with English), practising them, and then reconstructing them into sentences. Nonetheless, memorising is a prerequisite for learning.

The earworms basic approach to this is rhythmic repetition, which has been proven time and time again to be extremely effective. After listening several times, these words and phrases are rhythmically burned into your long-term memory. More importantly, you have the correct original pronunciation ringing in your ears, and it doesn't take much to jog your memory.

To complement and support this, you might want to try some of the techniques used by the memory masters, associating the sounds of the words with other familiar words and visual images. Of course, you have to have listened to the songs beforehand.

There are no hard and fast rules about the kind of associations to make, as long as they help you to remember – sometimes the weirder, the better! And they don't need to sound exactly like the word or term you are trying to remember, maybe they just rhyme or the first few letters are the same, putting your memory on the right track.

For example, I recall the Greek for 'excuse me' with 'messy oil heater' because it sounds something like 'me-see-oreeter'.

The hook links in to your auditory cortex which will call up the sounds of the words stored there by listening to the earworms songs.

Here, for each language we have provided you with a starter pack of memory hooks, but as each individual thinks differently, it is probably better to make up and use your own – indeed using your imagination in this way enhances the learning process. It is also a bit of fun!

If you would like to share your own personal memory hooks with other earworms learners, please send them to info@earwormslearning.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours creatively,

the earworms team.

English

French & sound

Memory hook

with milk	au lait oh leh	Flamenco dancer with milk bottles instead of castanets: Olé!
Not at all, don't mention it.	De rien! duh ryan	Don't mention it to Doreen.
some water	de l'eau duh l'oh	Some water is 'down low' (in the well).
to eat	manger monjeh	Something to munch ? Eh?
to order	commander komondeh	I command the waiter to bring the food! Not very polite!
a drink	une boisson oon bwasson	Have a drink with Boyzone . Have une boiss-on with Boyzone .
of course	bien sûr byan sewr	Is it Anne? Of course it be Anne, Sir. Or imagine a bee in the sewer .
some wine	du vin du van	There is some wine on the divan .
some olives	des olives des oliva	Des & Olivia eating some olives .
bread	le pain leh pan	Imagine bread filling a pan ! Strange!
mixed salad	une salade compose oon sa-lad composeh	Salad mixed with compost !
You're welcome.	Je vous en prie. Sher vous on preh	Shove who's on – pray?
No, sorry.	Non, désolé. Noh, des ole	Sorry - sad – desolate.
Could I...?	Pourrais-je...? porraige	Could I have porridge?
everything	tout two	Tout (everything) = much more than two .
pay	régler regleh	Think of paying your huge restaurant bill in regular payments .
no problem	pas de problème pad problem	No brake pad problem on my car.
to buy	acheter ash-eteh	To buy an ashtray.
shoes	chaussures show sers	Show Sue the shoes.
expensive	cher sher	Let's share! –It's very expensive . Or to hire the singer Cher is very expensive .
near	près pre	Can I pray anywhere near here?
here	d'ici D.C.	Here is Washington DC on the map. It's d'ici (DC) . It's here .
I don't know.	Je ne sais pas. Je ne say pa	I don't know why Jennie always says 'Ma': Jennie, say Pa!
I'm looking for...	Je cherche... shersh	Looking for the church.
to the left	à gauche	O Gosh! You dress on the left!
a train ticket	un billet de train un B.A.	Billy has the ticket . There is B.A. on it.
today	aujourd'hui or-sherd-we	Tomorrow? ' Or should we ' do it today?

Some of these hooks are slightly cheeky, but we have included them for the sake of learning.