

earworms

German 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

German & sound

Memory hook

I would like...	Ich möchte... Ihk merhkter	I would like a 'Merc'- Ich möchte ein 'Merc'.
with	mit	Hold it with mit tens- it's hot!
sugar	Zucker tsooker	Sugar shooting out of a 'ba - tzooker ' (bazooker).
to eat	essen S.N.	Eat Something Nice -'S.N.' ess-en
the menu	die Speisekarte Spysa-carter	New restaurant called: Spys – a – Carter heading the menu.
order	bestellen beshtellen	Best if Ellen orders! Best Ellen.
a bottle	eine Flasche eiyner flasher	The bottle flashes when you hold it up to the light – It's a flasher!
a cup	eine Tasse eiyner tasser	A cup with tassels hanging from the handle.
a table	einen Tisch eiyner tish	Sneezing over a table covered with tissues... 'Tishoo!'
Sorry.	Tut mir Leid. Toot mier lyde	Sorry , you can't ' toot me light '. It's not a horn!
the airport	Flughafen flewgharfen	Flew half way from the airport and flew halfway back.
Many thanks.	Vielen Dank. feelen dunk	Many thanks but I'm feeling dank . After getting soaking wet in a shower of rain.
to buy	kaufen cowfen	We want to buy a cow for the rodeo to have some ' cow fun '.
a ticket	eine Fahrkarte far-carter	You'll go far with this card .
euros	Euro oi -row	At the bank: " Oi! You are in the wrong row to get oi-row ".
three	drei drry	Three bottles of dry wine.
four	vier fear	The four (fearful) horsemen of the apocalypse.
six	sechs zex	zex (sex) at 6 o'clock?
eleven	elf elf	Eleven elfs dancing round two trees that look like a no.11.
Tuesday	Dienstag deenstarg	James Dean's day .
Wednesday	Mittwoch mitvohk	Midweek you cook with a wok- midwok .
Thursday	Donnerstag donnas targ	Donna's day is Thursday.