

earworms

Greek 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

Greek sound

Memory hook

I would like...	thyeethella...	She says: "I would like a hunky thigh fella ."
Very good.	boleee galla	A very good and polished gala .
water	neroh	King Nero drinking a huge golden chalice of water .
some	leego	Lea, go and get some!
food	fyedo	Food for Fido .
to order	na barrangilo	To order for the barron a kilo of caviar!
a drink	ena bodo	A drink comes in a boddle (bottle).
Of course.	verver	There-there don't fret. Of course I'll bring it!
wine	grassee	This wine tastes grassy – indeed I can see grass in the bottle!
a bottle	ena boogalley	Boogie with a bottle in the alley .
olives	el-yes	" Yes , put the olives in the shape of an L ." " L? " " Yes ." (el-yes)
a mixed (village) salad	meea horiadicky salada	For me a horticultural salad.
Have you got...?	eggheadeh...?	Have you got - an egg head, eh?
a table	ena drabezi	Imagine a table in the middle of a trapeze. In a trapeze.
no	ohee	Oh, he always says: no!
Sorry.	le barmeh	Sorry , what a bummer!
a dessert	ena epi-thorbio	An epic sorbet!
to pay	na bli rosso	I want to pay – now for the blue rosso .
Everything/all ok?	all endaxi	All ok - in the taxi?
the bill	doh logarismo	Can you ' do the logarithms ' and calculate the bill?

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