

earworms

Polish 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	Polish Sound	Memory Hook
Please	proshe	Sheila's a pro , she is. That's why I say please .
Thank you	gincooyeh	Thank you for the gin .
I would like	h-chiawbym (man) h-chiawabym (woman)	H-choo! I'd like to ... stop sneezing!
Coffee	kave	I'd like a coffee in the cave .
tea	hairbutte	Hair butter! I have a hair and a piece of butter in my tea!
The bill	oh rah-hoonek	Sounds a bit like 'reckoning'." Reckon the bill please.
I am looking for.....	shookam	I'm looking for a Shoe .
I have lost (a man/woman Says)	Scooby-wem / Scooby-wam	I've lost Scooby, When? I've lost Scooby, Wham!
How are you doing? (informal)	Yak she-mash	How's your female yak doing? How's your yak she -mash doing?
I have ~ a problem	Mam ~ problem	I have a problem – it's me mam.
Is there a lift here?	Che yest too vinda?	Che, yes wind the lift up mate.
One	yeden	Yeah Dan – he's the number one man!
Two	dva	Sounds a bit like 'divide' - Divide by two .
Three	cher	Sounds a bit like church. A church with 3 steeples – wow!
Four	Ch-terrer	The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse bringing terror!
Five	piench	Sounds a bit like pinch. Peter pinched 5 pears.
Sunday	nigela	I'm meeting Nigella on Sunday .
Monday	ponidgiawek	'po-niedzeili' = after Sunday
Tuesday	vtorek	Sounds a bit like 'historic' – Tuesday is historic!
Wednesday	shrodda	We have Shreddies on Wednesdays.
Thursday	chvarrtek	Comes from number 4 / ch-terrer.
Friday	piowntek	Comes from number 5 / piench.
Saturday	sobota	It's Saturday and I have a sore bottom! Or think of ' Sabbath '