

**HOW TO LEARN  
& MEMORIZE  
GERMAN  
GRAMMAR**



**ANTHONY METIVIER**

## Why You Need To Read This Book

People around the world dream of becoming fluent in German, and yet so few will ever develop the grammar skills needed to express themselves in one of the world's most prominent languages. As a result, they will never use the nuances and layers of meaning unique to German. Even with the best intentions and the best of instructors, students of German struggle to learn enough grammar to engage in the expressive conversations needed to form important relationships, create profitable business contacts or study at schools in German-speaking countries.

Why is grammar such a struggle? Many German language students blame a lack of time. Some claim that memorizing the grammar rules they need to know is too hard. Others try to learn grammar concepts by rote, desperately copying representative sentences hundreds of times by hand. The biggest excuse heard around the world and in every language is the saddest excuse of all: most people claim that they have a bad memory.

I sympathize with this. I used to *love* claiming that I have a poor memory. In fact, the first time I studied a foreign language, I silently swore in English so vehemently about my "bad memory" that I would have been kicked out of class had I spoken my frustration out loud.

I remained irritated with what I perceived to be my poor memory until I decided to do something about it. I studied memorization and ultimately devised the unique Memory Palace method described in this book. It is an easily learned set of skills that you can completely understand in under an hour. It is a method that will have you memorizing grammar rules at an accelerated pace within just a short few hours after you've learned the technique. Instead of struggling to learn and retain one or two grammar concepts a day, you will find yourself memorizing much larger amounts every time you learn grammar in conjunction with the memory techniques taught to you in this book.

It pleases me immensely to help people memorize German grammar, especially when people regularly describe to me how easily they were able to memorize sometimes very difficult concepts and start using them in an hour or less using my methods. These achievements are thrilling to me, thrilling for the people who use the techniques and they will thrill you.

This edition of *How to Learn and Memorize German Grammar* is for you. Whether you are an adult, teenager or even someone working with young students who struggle with learning, retaining and producing German sentences due to a poor understanding of the grammar, I have designed this book so that as soon as you understand the core memory method, you can sit with a grammar book anywhere and at any time and permanently install any rule that you wish for easy and accurate recall. To this end, I have written this book primarily for those German learners who have the burning desire to learn a grammar concept once and recall it without frustration of any kind within minutes, if not seconds, of having learned it.

Three obstacles stand between you and memorizing the German grammar you need to achieve your dreams of fluency in this amazing language.

### **The Belief That You Don't Need A Dedicated Memorization Strategy For Learning and Memorizing German Grammar**

Although repetition is always important when it comes to any form of learning, it is a shame that so many people who study German wind up relying on rote learning. Audio recordings cue us to say the same phrases repeatedly with the notion that the grammar rules will remain in the mind following the automated lesson, either due to the rote repetition or some form of intuitive understanding that can supposedly only come from the blunt force of repetition. All who have tried to learn a second language have experienced the fantasy that simply repeating a phrase again and again will award us permanent ownership of those words.

The fact is that repetition without making a memorable connection with the material simply doesn't work.

Not in my experience, and not in the experience of the thousands of people who have read my Magnetic Memory Method books and taken my video courses. Trust me. I spent six months learning German in a school in Berlin. I cannot say I learned nothing because I walked away with at least some sense of what German is all about and some confidence with respect to conversational speaking.

But I left the class with an extremely limited grammar, one based almost entirely on the features that German shares with English. Looking back, I'm shocked my language school at no point taught any dedicated memorization skills. Instead of sitting through long classes based upon the repetition of

one or two simple discussion phrases and grammar exercises in written and oral form per class, I could have been supplementing this experience with the Memory Palace method I eventually devised for myself. With a dedicated memorization strategy, I could have been memorizing dozens of important Grammar concepts per day.

### **The Belief That Memorization Strategies Won't Work For You**

People often tell me that the memory techniques I teach will not work for them. But I always confidently respond by saying that not only will these techniques work if they follow the exercises: these techniques will literally blow them away when they see how quickly their German grammar skills develop.

And there is good evidence to support the use of memorization strategies in language learning. The Stanford University study conducted by Richard C. Atkinson is a representative example of many such studies that support the memorization techniques. Atkinson humorously derides the rote learning approaches taught in most foreign language classes by calling paper a “cheap memory device,” one that is rather worthless compared to the memorization strategies you’re about to read about and add to your palette of language learning techniques.

Atkinson concluded his study by arguing that the language-learning curriculum of all language schools and classes should include memorization techniques because students make such incredible leaps using these indisputable methods. Try out the memory technique taught in this book for yourself and you will marvel at the progress you’ll make. Guaranteed.

### **The Belief That Memorization Strategies Are Too Much Work**

You will need between 1-2 hours to set up the full Memory Palace system taught in this book and another 2-3 hours to really get the hang of the method and pick up speed. The steps are easy, fun and you can memorize new grammar as you are learning the Magnetic Memory Method. As soon as you’ve understood the principles of grammar memorization and started working with the method taught in this book, you will be memorizing new German grammar rules and example phrases by the dozens with consistent speed and accuracy. The best part is that this method will serve you for life and can be extended to memorizing just about any information you could ever want.

I have a suggestion for you before you turn the page and start your journey toward advanced memorization skills. Believe in the power of your mind. When I started learning German, I constantly told myself that the language was too difficult and that my brain was ill equipped. I acted as if I had been born with a poor memory by virtue of birth. This not only pushed the language away from me, but eroded my confidence and made things much more difficult than they needed to be.

Don't be like this. The ability to memorize grammar rules and put them to use with near-100% accuracy opened the world's doors for me, and it will do the same for you.

Moreover, when we consider the importance of German in our contemporary world society, it is that much more important that we do not belittle ourselves. Your mind is as powerful as mine, and by developing a positive mental attitude, learning the Magnetic Memory Method for German Grammar and putting in a small amount of effort will be easy, fun and demonstrate to you the powerful abilities of your own mind every single day for the rest of your life.

German remains a language spoken all around the world. This means that those with advanced German grammar skills can experience greater pleasure when traveling than they have ever dreamed possible. When it comes right down to it, isn't pleasure what life is all about?

With advanced German grammar skills, you'll speak with people you might never have approached otherwise during your travels. Service will be offered to you at levels normally reserved for German speaking people. If you are a businessperson, you will engage in meetings and meet potential clients and business partners with the ease and efficiency that marks all great entrepreneurs (with nearly *100 million* native speakers of German, that's a lot of opportunity). With the method taught in this book, you will be able to enjoy German television, radio, newspapers and magazines much more quickly than rote learning could ever provide. You will enjoy German theatre and movies and even understand paintings and other art produced by German culture at deeper levels because you'll enjoy the ability to read the language and understand the nuances specific to those art forms.

You will love adapting the Magnetic Memory Method for memorizing German grammar rules to your individual learning style and enjoy massive

success as a result. Give me 5 hours of your time as you teach yourself how to use this method and I will give you the techniques and abilities you'll need to memorize all the German grammar rules you have ever dreamed possible and experience massive boosts in fluency as a result.

# **How to Learn and Memorize German Grammar ...**

**Using a Memory Palace Specifically  
Designed for the German Language (and  
adaptable to other languages too)**

**By  
Anthony Metivier, PhD**

[www.magneticmemorymethod.com](http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com)

For Language Learners Everywhere

WAIT!

I have created FREE Magnetic Memory Worksheets that go along with this book. In order to download them, go to:

<http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com/free-magnetic-memory-worksheets/>

As a reader of this book, you'll also have the chance to subscribe to the Magnetic Memory Newsletter – while it's still free . Subscribe now and get the only information that will keep your memory ***magnetic*** for years to come. When you subscribe, you'll also get a free 45-minute interview I conducted with world memory expert Harry Lorayne!



## **PRAISE FOR ANTHONY METIVIER'S**

### **MAGNETIC MEMORY METHOD BOOKS AND VIDEO COURSES**

★★★★★ "This works and is very do-able."

- Kathleen Poole

★★★★★ "I have only gotten to lecture 12. And I am finding memory palaces that will be wonderful. My house wasn't very good but my job a supercenter of a company that is bigger than some small countries is amazing. At the service area I have thought of over 26 subpalaces.....All in all I think this course is not only going to help me memorize places, but ideas as well. I may even be able to write a novel with this system... If that happens it would be priceless...."

- Amanda Humes

★★★★★ "I have read a few books on memory training, and what I liked about Anthony Metivier's course here is that he has studied a number of the classic memory systems and synthesized a modern approach. He give good examples and his ideas of using Excel spreadsheets to help assist in organizing the memorization process is very helpful.

Of course, as with any activity, you only get out of it what you put into it, but Anthony is so enthusiastic and persuasive that I felt inspired to learn to stick to a daily study routine and indeed learn memorize vocab."

- Chris Guthrey

★★★★★ "It is amazing how many spanish words I am learning with ease after going through this course. After sharing with family friends the number of words I am memorizing every day, the first response is generally unbelief. Though I have a ways to go, when we are out in the Latino

community, my friends and family are asking me for assistance. I actually wake up each morning excited about picking up and memorizing new words from a Spanish Dictionary! Who gets excited about going through a dictionary? Anthony you are my hero!!!"

- Jamie Lewis

★★★★★ "With your incredible help, I've been able to memorize the Greek alphabet (words and symbols) front words and backwards in about 3 or 4 total hours of work. I was very worried as I tackled this project, but your techniques were so very helpful."

- Kevin Wax

★★★★★ "I have being using this method for learning German for the last while. I read books written by Harry Lorayne, Joshua Foer, Kevin Trudeau etc. I could not get it working. Since I came across this method all missing pieces came together. I am able to memorize around 300-400 words per month. I am very sorry that I have not used mnemonics techniques before. The concept is simple but method is only hard to begin with. I guaranty, if you persist for one month it would hugely pay off. Great method!!!"

- D. Stojanovic

★★★★★ "It works!"

A fun and powerful way to remember. Recalling stuff with this method is often magical. The more you use it the more confidence you have in your own ability and the less stress you feel."

- Sean Cunningham

★★★★★ "Difficult to believe BUT Easy to do."

I memorised my first pack of shuffled cards in less than a week, I did not believe that it would be as easy as it was. I have almost finished my 26 memory palaces. The task of creating the memory palaces and the memorisation process in general has a great positive effect on how you feel."

- Kevin McG

★★★★★ "I have completed several memory courses and have had varying degrees of success. However, Anthony gives some detailed advice and training tips, that have made memorization, languages in particular, a lot clearer to me. For myself, he has filled in the blanks so to speak and he has provided some solid information and tools, that have allowed me to take my language studies to a much higher level. Not to mention the fact, that I am now able to expedite the whole process."

- Mike Newton

★★★★★ "I've been pretty disappointed with most "self-help" materials, as they usually end up giving you nothing more than anecdotes that would only work if you somehow ended up in the EXACT situation as the person in their story. This course is different--you get specific principles that can be applied anywhere and any time. The course is well-presented and interesting."

- Michael Gerity

★★★★★ "This method is really good. But its author is really there. I mean that he is answering once and over your questions. Before 24h he advise you and guide you to achieve your aim. And there are extras within that you find out day by day. I am very satisfied and just beginning with it."

- Josep Carrion

★★★★★ "I'm a linguist in the military who was required to learn a very difficult Middle Eastern language within one year. They sent me to

specialized training, where native speakers provided an "immersion"-like environment and threw grammar lists at us every day for 10 months. We were then expected to pass a rigorous evaluation in order to pass the training. If only I had had this course during those agonizing months, I would have not only passed with flying colors, but finished ahead of schedule! I'm now confident to attempt even more languages, as well as further improve and develop my current language."

- Jacqueline Wright

★★★★★ "Nicely organized and gives multiple strategies for memorizing. No grandiose, claims just solid information."

- Kathleen Byrne

## **Table of Contents**

### **Introduction**

### **Chapter One: The Main Principles of Memory Palace Construction**

### **Chapter Two: Applying the Main Principles to Learning and Memorizing the German Grammar Rules**

### **Chapter Three: Notes on Getting Started With Using Memory Palaces**

### **Chapter Four: How to Extend Memory Retention Using Compounding Exercises & Generate Excitement for Learning German Grammar**

### **Chapter Five: Example Memory Palace For Inseparable and Separable Prefixes**

### **Chapter Six: Example Memory Palace for Memorizing the Tenses**

### **Chapter Seven: Example Memory Palace for Memorizing German Conjunctions**

### **Chapter Eight: Building Focus and Overcoming Procrastination For The Achievement Of Fluency.**

### **Chapter Nine: How to Use Relaxation for German Grammar Memorization**

### **Conclusion**

### **Further Resources for Memorization & Language Learning Techniques**

### **About the Author**

## Foreword

First off, I want to congratulate you on laying the new foundation of your German learning experience. This book is truly groundbreaking. For the first time there is a collected package of tools, strategies and insights needed to succeed with memorizing grammar rules.

Therefore, the opportunity you have before you now is indeed an exciting one ... You now have in your possession the same information and material that has enabled thousands of ordinary men and women with no special memory abilities to turn their passion for German to the next level and experience massive boosts in their (and now your) understanding of and ability to use grammar.

Why is this book so powerful? Because nothing about building and using Memory Palaces for foreign language study has been held back. You're getting everything there is to know about using Memory Palaces to memorize German grammar (and much, much more!)

This introduction to the Magnetic Memory Method includes the most complete and detailed training on building a network of Memory Palaces for memorizing German grammar ever presented. And the best part is that you can use the technique to memorize any other kind of information you'll ever encounter.

In addition to this amazing training, you'll find:

- \* A complete description on how to build and use Memory Palaces for memorizing and recalling German grammar rules.
- \* Access to the author to answer all your questions.  
([learnandmemorize@zoho.com](mailto:learnandmemorize@zoho.com))
- \* Secret strategies for using relaxation to aid the memorization process.
- \* Tips about overcoming procrastination while studying German and its grammar.
- \* An exclusive, Preferred Reader invitation to receive ongoing content to back up the memory training offered in this book.

\* Access to amazing bonuses linked to throughout that will inspire you and deepen your familiarity with using Memory Palaces.

As you can see, this is a VERY full book.

Now, you might be wondering, what do I do first?

Here's a STRONG recommendation. Take a moment to answer the three quick questions I've concluded below. You can easily email me your answers with "Memory Questions Answered" in the subject line for a free gift that will continue your education in the art of language learning and memorization.

That's it for now - you have lots to do and a very exciting adventure ahead of you! Make sure you [subscribe](#) to the Magnetic Memory Method newsletter and watch your email inbox for ongoing announcements. And make sure to get in touch with any questions you may by email at [learnandmemorize@zoho.com](mailto:learnandmemorize@zoho.com).

Dedicated to improving your memory,

Anthony Metivier

Founder of the Magnetic Memory Method

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### **Magnetic Memory Question #1:**

What is your personal "Memory Myth" about your memory, including any programming you may have received as a young person or continue to receive in your daily life? How does this myth affect how you think about your memory?

### **Magnetic Memory Question #2**

What is the "distance" between where you are now with your memory skills - and where would you like to be in the future? Please be as specific as possible, including something like a deadline for when you would like to see a difference achieved (five minutes from now, tomorrow, next month, next year, etc).

### **Magnetic Memory Question #3**

What is your education "action plan" for completing this course so that you have total control over the improvement you would like to see in this area of your life?

Remember: email your answers to me for a special gift (\$14 value).



## Introduction

I learned to memorize grammar out of desperation. Living in Berlin and spending five four-hour days a week for six months in a German language class was an amazing experience. Unfortunately, I did not learn nearly as much grammar as I would have liked because I did not have a deliberate strategy for memorizing the rules behind the sentences I was learning. But I wanted a memory method very badly, and this chapter tells the story of how I came to develop the unique Memory Palace strategy taught in this book.

Before departing for Germany, I spent several weeks meeting with a small group of students in a small church in Manhattan. The teacher, while patient and clearly devoted to teaching German, had us listen to tapes of a series called *Warum Nicht?* (Why Not?) as we followed along with a textbook transcript. We then repeated the key phrases and essentially reenacted the dialogue.

I learned very little German this way. Nor in Berlin, where nearly everyone starts speaking English with you the instant they sense that your German is weak.

Although the lessons at the Hartnackschule I attended were more structured than those I experienced in New York, I still did not retain much grammar. I found this very painful because Berlin is an amazing city and the opportunity to learn German is everywhere. Unfortunately, the instant someone hears you struggling to remember particular words, they almost always begin speaking English. English has a strong presence in the country and almost everyone spoke it much better than I spoke German.

I had never been shy of rote learning, but for some reason, the hours I spent repetitively copying out the same phrases over and over again in the hopes of understanding the grammar did little more than strain my poor wrist. Falsely assuming that I just wasn't spending enough time with the rote exercises, I actually trained myself to write with my non-dominant hand in order to get more practice in. I think this was a useful thing to do purely as a brain exercise, but it in no way helped me learn German.

The one word I do remember from my attempts with rote learning is *allmählich*. This is the German word for "gradually."

But I soon grew tired of learning German gradually. As I had some familiarity with using mnemonics for my doctoral field exams, I decided to look deeper into this subject to see if the methods could be applied to language learning. I spent countless hours online and in libraries searching for a memory method devoted specifically to language acquisition. I read countless books and listened to hours of audio programs. All of them were devoted to rote learning or in some cases gave a few tips on using mnemonics, but I have still never found a book describing a grammar memorization method that lets me visualize and organize grammar rules.

I quickly realized that I would have to create my own memorization methods. The method I came up with would have to enable me to establish the rules in my mind so that I could instantly recognize them when I heard them or read them. I also wanted to be able to generate them for speaking whenever I needed them and be able to pronounce them correctly. I felt it was important for the method to reside almost entirely in my mind, though I quickly discovered that for the purposes of testing, written records would be very useful.

In other words, a key component of what would eventually become the Magnetic Memory Method would involve not only memorizing grammar rules, but transcribing them by hand *from* memory. It's quick, easy and even fun to do and the process deeply cements the information in the imaginative and the mechanical parts of the mind *without* the pain and boredom of rote learning with index cards and spaced-repetition software.

In fact, the Magnetic Memory Method enables us to completely turn the writing example sentences for learning grammar principles by rote on its head by using what has been established in our memory for the purposes of output rather than use writing and repetition to force that information in. Your memory does not like having things forced upon, so we use writing as a means of testing and reinforcing what we've memorized, This procedure, called Rehearsal Recall, also shows us the magic of the memorization process at work and this encourages us to keep going, constantly combating the notion that memorizing grammar rules is a drag.

Getting back to our story, as I worked on developing the Magnetic Memory Method, it never once occurred to me that designing such a technique would be easy or fun or that it would lead to making the process of learning

an absolute pleasure. In fact, once I found the solution, my heart was filled with dread at all the hard work the Method I had devised was going to be.

However, once I got started, I realized that it not only took only a short while to create the Memory Palace system, but it was also incredibly entertaining and rewarding. As it turns out, it makes people feel good too. I believe that these positive feelings occur because using the mind to connect language-learning concepts with locations and imagery in the way you're about to learn is one of the most positive experiences a person can have.

Before continuing, I would like to address an issue that people constantly raise: several readers of my books and clients have told me that people who succeed with acquiring languages have a special gene that the rest of us do not. They think that this gene allows such "geniuses" to develop personalized, but still relatively formal strategies for memorizing languages.

This is nonsense. The techniques described in this book can be used by anyone.

As I noted before, many people feel that memorization techniques don't and won't work for them. This is not an attitude I accept, particularly because I used to share it. I used to love telling people about my poor memory. And probably you have, or someone you know, loves to do this too.

Yet, when we tell others that we have a poor memory, we essentially train the people around us to treat us this way, which reinforces our beliefs about our inefficient memories. It is a negative cycle. I broke free by learning these skills, and the fact of the matter is that when learned and used in the correct manner, these memory techniques will change your life.

**“Like a Ten-Speed bike, most of us have gears we do not use.”**

Charles Schultz

What I tell people who claim they have a bad memory is that memory techniques are like bicycles. Everyone can use them. Not everybody does, but regardless of body shape, and in many cases even with certain disabilities, there are very few of us who cannot get on a bike and ride.

But bikes have adjustable parts, and like bicycles, the memory techniques taught in this book need to be adjusted by the person using them. Just as we

need to re-angle the handlebars, or lower the seat on a new bike, the Magnetic Memory Method taught in this book will need tweaking. Once you've understood how to create Memory Palaces and started to use them, you'll find ways to suit them to your brain type (as opposed to body type).

Before we continue, I'd like you to realize that learning to memorize will reward you in ways that go beyond the importance of having German fluency in the modern world. Using your memory to learn a new language is fun to do and, as a form of mental exercise, it sends oxygen rich blood to your brain, improving health and helping to prevent diseases like Alzheimer's and Dementia.

But you don't have to drag yourself to the gym to achieve amazing results when it comes to working out your mind and preventing future mind illnesses. You can work out in your favorite armchair, while driving or sitting at the beach. You can develop your memory wherever you happen to be and practice the grammar you learn with ease because you'll have every memorized word perfectly organized within the workout gymnasium of your mind.

When it comes to learning and memorizing the grammar of the German language, there is no other book like this out there. And there is no other gymnasium quite like your mind. I do not believe in the "use it or lose it" principle, but I do know for a fact that what you do not use, you cannot benefit from. Start improving the natural abilities of your mind today.

I have written this book to train you in the basics of grammar acquisition using the Magnetic Memory Method, and hope that you will pass these skills on to everyone you know.

Why?

Because it is important that you tell people about your memorization learning experience. Repeating what you have learned about how to learn and memorize German grammar will strengthen your personal expertise with the craft.

A word of warning, however. Like a bicycle, you need to adapt what you'll be learning in this book to your own learning style and to the way that you use your imagination. As I will explain in greater detail in a moment, the Magnetic Memory Method is a "method" and not a system (though it is a

method that allows you to create a system). The difference is very important.

To this end, I will show you things I tried to help memorize grammar that didn't work for me as I adjusted the Magnetic Memory Method to work for me based on the universal principles of advanced memory skills that it has combined. I will show you how I have adjusted some techniques that did not initially help in ways that did make them more workable for me. The emphasis here is always on adjustment and adaptation. The more you work with these methods, the more you will see how you need to adapt them to your own personality and ways of thinking. There are no rules as such. Only principles that, when followed according to your personal approach, will ensure your success.

### **What The Magnetic Memory Method Isn't ...**

Let's look a little further at why the Magnetic Memory Method is a "method" and not a "system."

As I've stressed, memory techniques are like a bicycle. They involve universal principles that are as true for you as they are for nearly every other person on the planet. Just as the rules of form and gravity and force and propulsion in combination with a few well-fitted mechanical parts make it possible for nearly anyone to propel a bicycle of one sort or another, the basic principles of memory rely upon universal principles.

But like bicycles, there is no one-size-fits-all. We all have to adjust our bicycles to the right height and set the handlebars at just the right angle. We may prefer our tires hard or soft, and some of us like to have tassles and a bell, while others may prefer a horn and a fancy helmet.

The point is that methods are not only flexible, but must be flexed. And when it comes to this Method, in order to really succeed with the Magnetic Memory Method you will need to put some thought into exactly how you will use it.

Why? Because the Magnetic Memory Method is not magic bullet. It is not something that produces results for you, but rather a method that you use in order to produce a desired outcome. In order for this to happen, you need to actually use the Method.

Thousands of people have had the opportunity to use the Magnetic Memory Method and there are in fact different types of people who have read my books and taken my video courses and it's worth having a glance at these groups because they tell us a great deal about what is possible and why it's possible, while also helping us understand why some people fail.

The first kind of person is the simplest to describe: this person "gets" the Method instantly, adapts from it, puts what they've learned to use and experiences the desired result, which is reliable recall on demand under nearly any condition (stress, exhaustion, test conditions, job interviews, etc).

I personally don't know why everyone isn't like this. If you have any ideas, please let me know!

Then there is the second type, a group of individuals who are equally fascinating. These people also "get" the Magnetic Memory Method, accept that it works, maybe even give it a try, but simply think of it as a neat memory trick and never actually use it. Perhaps they have nothing they want to memorize, but they just like the field of memory and enjoy knowing about what is possible and what the human mind can achieve.

The third group is formed of the people whom I have somehow failed as the founder and primary teacher of the Magnetic Memory Method. They don't understand it, even when I share with them the hundreds of pages of personal coaching I've done with others in the pages of the Magnetic Memory Method Newsletter.

Why is there such an extreme difference between those who succeed and those who do not?

The answer is very simple. The people who "get" the Magnetic Memory Method and use it to achieve success have one very special characteristic that many others do not:

They have the ability to get started. They know how, as the composer John Cage put it, to "begin anywhere." I've quizzed and surveyed these people and the number one thing that they all have in common is that they took action.

Any action.

Thus, I encourage you to think about exactly how you're going to start taking action as you read this book. I will be giving you opportunities to get started left, right and center and they are structured steps that follow a particular order. All of them are easy, all of them will enable you to build an elegant set of techniques in your mind, and when approached with the right mindset, all of them are incredibly fun.

However, I know for myself that I do not always want to do things in the order that I've been told, so please do keep in mind the importance of beginning anywhere. If you're a person who likes to start with the first step, you'll find that first step in these pages. If you prefer to skip to the middle, you'll have that opportunity. The only caveat is that if you want results, eventually you will need to put together all the pieces in order to see real success. It's only that the order in which you put everything together is entirely up to you.

### **About This Book ...**

Before we conclude, I'd like you to know that much of this book is written in a conversational style. However, each chapter ends with a set of action steps that you can use to begin implementing the techniques for yourself and think about incorporating into your grammar studies immediately. The final chapters give you plenty of examples of how I myself work with my own Memory Palaces to learn and recall grammar concepts so that you can model how the method works in detail.

About these examples, you should know that this book is not about German grammar as such. It is designed to teach you how to quickly and easily memorize the grammatical principles of this language and is a companion book to [How to Learn and Memorize German Vocabulary](#), part of the Magnetic Memory Series of books on using the natural abilities of your mind to help you achieve your goals. If you lack enough German vocabulary to fully benefit from a study of its grammar, then this companion book from the Magnetic Memory Method series will put you in good stead.

Thus, the best way to use the book you now have in your possession is to read it from cover to cover, learn the Magnetic Memory Method for memorizing and recalling the grammar rules, make a plan based on the procedures and then approach your grammar learning goals, which as you'll

learn, should be specific and can be targeted around a predictable number of Memory Palaces that you'll need to build in order to achieve the success promised by the Magnetic Memory Method.

Throughout this book, I address you not only as a learner of grammar memorization skills but also a potential teacher. As previously mentioned, my hope is that you will not only learn these techniques, but also pass them onto others. One of the best ways to learn a skill is to talk about what you've learned as quickly as possible. And the more people who have better memory skills, particularly when applied to language learning, the better our world becomes.

Finally, it is very important that you read this book from beginning to end before using any of the exercises to build Memory Palaces and memorize foreign language grammar concepts. Although the Magnetic Memory Method for foreign language grammar memorization is incredibly simple, elegant and effective, it does take a bit of time to understand it, absorb it and get started. In fact, it tends to take 2-5 hours to get everything running, which may or many not include the time it takes to read this book, depending on your speed.

However, please don't make the mistake of many an underachiever by deciding that these Memory Palace procedures are all too complex or over your head.

Listen: none of this requires rocket surgery or brain science. Nothing you'll learn in this book is too complex and everything you'll be learning about with respect to Memory Palaces and memory techniques is well within your range. You can master all of it quickly and easily if you just follow the steps and begin.

It's now time to begin. Are you ready?

Sehr gut! Gutes gelingen!

I wish you much success!



## Chapter One: The Main Principles of Memory Palace Construction

There are three main principles involved in what I call “memory amplification” when teaching mnemonics, Memory Palaces and memory techniques in general. I use this term because memory techniques do seem to “turn up the volume” of the mind. Many learners respond positively to this concept because it is easy to imagine their minds as radios “tuning in” on a signal and having a volume knob they can turn up in order to increase the receptivity of their minds.

After we learn these principles, I’m going to show you how to use them to memorize German grammar rules. All of it is going to boil down to the following equation, which we’ll visit again at different points in this book:

Location = Rule

Image = The meaning of the rule/example

Action = The meaning of the rule/example

This equation will make more sense as we carry on, so please just place it in your pocket until you need it again.

For now, the three Memory Palace principles you will learn in this chapter: **location**, **imagery**, and **activity**. Along with these principles, we will talk about Memory Palace **Preparation** and **Predetermination**.

The first three principles are ancient. They are principles that have been used for thousands of years by normal people just like you and I. However, it is only recently that I have elaborated them into a dedicated system for memorizing grammar.

If you find that you are interested in the history of Memory Palaces and other techniques, I highly recommend reading this webpage:

<http://www.mundi.net/cartography/Palace>.

Joshua Foer’s recent book [\*Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Memory\*](#) is also fantastic, but please be advised that this book covers more cultural history than specific guidance when it comes to building memory palaces for language acquisition. But if you’re serious about finding classroom methodologies that will directly impact how you absorb,

retain and recall German grammar, then you have everything to gain by reading all that you can on the topic of memorization, including Foer's book.

For my part, I created the Magnetic Memory Method in collaboration with a dude from Ancient Greece named Simonides of Ceos. He and I never met, but it is said that Simonides was giving a speech at a banquet (a location) when the building collapsed (an image). As it happens, following the massive noise, the spectacle of dust billowing in the air and his fight to escape from the rubble (a set of actions), Simonides was the lone survivor.

(As an aside, remember our equation from above with location, image and action? The key elements are located in the history of the Memory Palace technique itself, so they're very important for us to learn.)

In what seemed like a miracle to the city authorities, Simonides recounted the name and exact location of every person in attendance, allowing families to claim the bodies of their loved ones and give them a proper burial. I'm going to tell you how Simonides managed to perform what on the surface seems like a miracle, but for now, just imagine this:

What if you could recall not only the "name" and meaning of every German grammar rule, but also its location in your mind and memory? And what if you could do so in such a way that when you are practicing reading, speaking and writing German, you could instantly go to that location and "remind" yourself of what that rule entails and exactly how to use? It's pretty simple, as a matter of fact, and it's what Simonides taught me to do.

Of course, I've added many new ingredients to Simonides' basic technique and tons of innovations that speak to us in the 21st century, but overall, the basic principles of location, action and image remain the same.

And the way that the Magnetic Memory Method puts them altogether is good because it relies upon locations with which you are familiar. You use places that you know and adore to store the German grammar rules that you've memorized, which means that you never have to struggle to recall what these Memory Palaces look like, their layout or how to navigate them. And navigate them is precisely what you're going to do.

Let's return to Simonides. One of the reasons he was able to recall all of the attendees at the banquet is because he had associated their name with their

**location** in the banquet hall. He did this by creating associative-imagery, wild and zany mental pictures that he used to almost instantly recall their names. Not easy names like Butch or Tom or Suzy, but Ancient Greek names that usually had many syllables.

Thus, the **crazy images** that Simonides exaggerated in his mind by **amplifying them with colors, sizes and movement**, matched with the mental **locations** of where he stored those images (which was coincidentally where each attendee either sat or stood), allowed Simonides to recall the names of each individual by mentally moving from station to station and "decoding" the images he created.

You can do this with grammar rules too. If you approach the process in just the right way, it's incredibly simple. All you need to do is understand and utilize a simple vocabulary recall equation: Location = word (or name) Image and action = meaning and typically gives you an example.

This formula is officially called "The Ultimate Memorization Equation" and assuming that you have enough locations and have put a small amount of thought into the mental journey you can make through them with a fixed number of journeys along the way, you can memorize all of the grammar rules that you want.

Let's leave Simonides now and look at each of the three main principles in turn from a practical viewpoint. Keep in mind that each of principles is individually important and each is interrelated with the other. Use them independently, and they will still help improve your memory somewhat. Use them together and your memory skills will soar beyond belief.

### ***Location***

Location is part of, but not the entire picture of the memory palace concept. Locations are the Memory Palaces we will use to store the associative-imagery that we decode in order to recall what various grammar rules mean and how they are used. These Memory Palaces are based on real places that we are familiar with from our every day lives. You can use fantasy Memory Palaces, but they have serious shortcomings because they require you to think too much about them as you use them. But when you use real locations, miracles of memory can happen.

Let's look at why.

The reason we use locations to memorize German grammar is because we tend to remember places we've been without exerting any effort, and this is one of the key principles of memory work: eliminate everything that you don't have to work at remembering and build natural associations in those familiar places.

When thinking about locations for storing memories, try doing something that I did for myself. I once determined that I have lived in eight cities, twenty-five houses (or apartments) and sixteen neighborhoods within those cities. I have yet to count all the familiar houses that belong to my friends and extended family members, but surely the number is exponential.

### **Do This Exercise Now**

Get out a piece of paper and list all of the houses with which you are familiar: places you've lived, the homes of relatives, the homes of your friends and any other homes that you've visited that are memorable to you.

Follow this by listing every school that you've attended, every church, every doctor and dentist you've visited and include optometrists, lawyers, libraries and movie theatres.

As you can see, going through your mind and identifying the countless locations and all the individual stations you are familiar with is not difficult work. It is tremendously pleasurable and will amaze you when you consciously begin to realize just how much geography you already hold in your mind.

Plus, the availability of locations is expanding all the time as you continue to meet new people and visit new places. For example, there are even hotel rooms that I remember very well during stays all over the world. These also include outdoor locations. For example, there is the path I took from a hotel in Paris to the Louvre. The short journey made such an impact on me that it has served me very well over the years. The point is that we all have more territory in our minds than we could ever possibly hope to use for storing memories. The best part is that we can then sub-divide locations into individual stations. When you consider each apartment, home or building a "location," then each individual room will be a station within that location.

As I'm going to discuss further on, I like to combine indoors and outdoors locations, all places that I know very well. There are some advanced ways that I use imaginary locations as well, and I will teach you these in one of the bonus chapters that accompanies this book.

I think that you'll be impressed by the power of location in storing memories and probably see how you can use imaginary locations as well. However, for memorizing German grammar effectively, I suggest that you always use locations that you are familiar with.

How can you judge familiarity? It's quite simple. If you can wander through a location in your mind without pausing to think about what room comes next, you can effectively work with this Memory Palace. The notion of moving from room to room works especially well because the order of rooms within a familiar building is difficult to forget.

Outside locations, on the other hand, can be difficult to remember. In such cases, it is better to use landmarks. Landmarks could include the entrance to your house, the driveway, the yards of the houses on your street and the merry-go-round and swing set in a local park.

You could also use streets in a neighborhood, assuming that you remember them with ease and without having to search your mind for them. If you live in a town with numbered streets and avenues, these can be especially useful because a progression of numbers up or down is concrete. But if you are moving through a park where one tree looks much like the next, you will likely find yourself struggling as you move through your palace.

It cannot be said often enough: the more you use places you already know, the less you have to remember. The less you have to remember, the more reliable space you have to work with so that can associate the content of grammar rules with these locations in memorable ways. And the more you can associate, the more you can remember. This fundamental principle of using familiar locations for your Memory Palaces all boils down to the fact that remembering less leads to remembering more.

### *Imagery*

Imagery is ... well, imagery: mental pictures that you build in your mind. For the purposes of memorization, these pictures need to be big and colorful. The larger and the more colorful, the better. You want to

exaggerate the size and colors because the larger and more colorful the image, the more memorable it will be. This will in turn strengthen the associations.

For one simple example, think about the need to memorize the genders of German nouns. You could have boxing gloves for masculine words, flames for neuter words and skirts for feminine words. To make them memorable, you simply exaggerate their size, make their colors vibrant and do this with the other images you create in the association as well. Once you've seen a boxer punching a bus in crazy bursts of action and color, it will be difficult to forget that it's **der** Bus forevermore.

### **What To Do If You're Not Visual**

Nonetheless, some of the students I've taught tell me that they are not particularly visual in their imaginations and I completely understand this. In fact, when I read a novel, I rarely see images in my mind. Reading is almost always a conceptual experience for me. In fact, it's possible that I have something called *Imagination Deficit Disorder* or IDD.

Whether I suffer this condition or not, I do have a low visual threshold in my mind, so am able to give my non-visual students a few suggestions based on my own experiences.

### **Don't Force It**

First, if you can't think in color, do not to force it. Try thinking in black and white and take care to exaggerate both the black and white. Exactly how black is the black and how white is the white? Is there an opportunity to use gray in some memorable way?

Whatever happens, we should never allow a lack of imagination for intense imagery to be a barrier.

In the event that neither color nor black and white patterns prove useful to you, try associating certain prefixes with actors or fictional characters.

### **The Art Of Using Art**

Another option for non-visual learners is to use paintings. Choose and study paintings that you are familiar with for your Memory Palace imagery. The more you are aware of the intricacies of famous paintings, the better.

If you're not particularly familiar with images from the world of painting, the next time you are in an art gallery or looking through an art book, pay closer attention to what you are looking at. Buy books about art history and specific painters and scrounge through them for ideas. Spend time imagining what zany actions these famous figures could be engaged in. The ideas generated in such exercises could become fodder for better associations while memorizing German grammar as you involve the associations with movement. We'll talk more about adding action to your images momentarily.

Another idea, perhaps one for advanced memorizers, is to select a number of famous paintings and place these in a memorable order inside of an imaginary art gallery. As you mentally walk from painting to painting in the art gallery of your mind, you can place your associations in front of each painting.

The drawback to this method is that it requires memorizing the order of several paintings with which to make associations. Nonetheless, I provide it as an idea for conceptual learners and for those who might respond to this approach.

I must mention a small problem with artwork, however. Paintings and statues tend to be static. They don't move. That said, if you can imagine the Mona Lisa walking like an Egyptian outside of her frame, or Michelangelo's David doing the Moonwalk, then you should have no problem.

### **Use Toys**

You can also use toys that you remember. GI Joe, Barbie, My Little Pony, Hello Kitty! ... anything goes. As with paintings, however, the most important factor here is that you can put these figures into action. Without action, the memories most likely will not stick in your mind nearly as well.

### **Other Approaches To Increasing Visualization Skills**

Sit and stare at a candle.

Then close your eyes.

Study the "afterburn." It will be easy to study because the light will remain on your retinas, making it easy to see.

Then, "trace" over that afterburn so that you're able to keep it in your imagination even after the effect subsides.

Once you get good at this, repeat the process, expect this time use an apple. Just stare at it for a while and then close your eyes and try to "rebuild" it in your imagination.

This time, "rebuild" the apple inside of a room in one of your Memory Palaces. You'll soon be able to build other images in your imagination very quickly and easily.

For an advanced version of this exercise, repeat the same procedure with water, ideally moving water. Sit by a stream and then try to recreate not only the "object" of the water, but also its movement.

With all of these exercises and options for becoming more visual in tow, let's turn our attention now to the matter of ...

### ***Action***

By now, you will have thought about for yourself different locations you are familiar with, sub-locations or stations within those locations and different ways that you can use exaggerated imagery to boost the stickiness of the words lodged in your various stations.

The next step is to give your images a bit of movement.

In fact, more than just a little bit of action. Just as you want to exaggerate the size and color of your images, you also want to exaggerate their actions. And you want to do so with as much energy, vitality and zaniness as you can muster. You're probably already quite capable of exaggerating images, but if you struggle, other parts of this book will help you develop this skill, after which point it's just a matter of practice.

### **Controversy!**

It's not an entirely nice way to think of memorization, but something that will work wonders for you is to make the action violent. Highway accidents serve as an example of how memorable scenes of violence can be – even in their aftermath. If after seeing an accident or accident site you could not shake the memory of your mind, then you know how powerful violent images can be.



This is not to suggest that lives need to be lost when working in your memory palaces. Cartoon violence will work just as well. Wile E. Coyote, for instance, provides a strong example of someone willing to savage himself in some pretty hilarious ways when trying to make the Road Runner his dinner.

Again, the object is to create something so potently memorable that working hard to recall the image is unnecessary. It will instantly come to mind when you look for it because you've given yourself no other choice. You've made the image impossible to forget.

Now, you may be thinking that using this technique is going to lead to a brain cluttered with bizarre images, especially since you already have enough new information to deal with in terms of memorizing the sounds and meanings of your new words.

You may indeed experience such clutter in the beginning when first learning the techniques. With practice, however, you will learn to be clear and precise.

Moreover, the images used in the associations tend to eventually fall away, leaving the actual memory intact. You'll still wander your Memory Palaces and have a hankering of what the images you once used to memorize a word, but these fragments will be secondary.

For example, I initially associated the German word "zerbrechlich" (breakable) with a vase being smashed by Zorro on an escalator in the Sony Centre movie theatre in Berlin. But although I remember the word and what it means perfectly well, I never actually have to visit that place in my mind anymore, nor do I have to imagine Zorro breaking the vase. I *can* if I want to, but because I spent time making sure the image was strong enough in the beginning and did the compounding exercises I discuss in a future chapter, the image very quickly loses importance as fluency takes over. The same principle applies to German grammar, as demonstrated in this book, and to any language you could possibly ever choose to learn. If you'd like more specific guidance with German vocabulary, however, I recommend [How to Learn and Memorize German Vocabulary](#) as a supplement to this book, one that you should only get if you want to reinforce the basic ideas covered here.

In sum, when using the combination of elements just discussed, the new grammar rule and its meaning that you've memorized will be the central artifact on display in your mind. If the entire memorization system is indeed like a bicycle, then the images themselves are the training wheels. They are not necessarily meant to stay after you've memorized the grammar rule for the rest of your life. The images are the tools we use to install the images, and although we will remember what they were, so long as we continue using the word by reading, speaking and writing, we reduce the chances that we will need the tools.

If you do not like the bicycle metaphor (i.e. the idea that you need to "adjust" each of these principles to your own way of learning the way you would raise or lower the seat on a new bike, etc.), another way to think about this is in terms of dental implants.

When dentists create an implant for a patient, they not only have to order a specifically shaped screw to drill into the bone, but they have to order a ratchet designed specifically for turning that custom-made screw. Sure, the dentist keeps the tool in case the implant needs to be retracted, but as a dental practitioner, the goal is to do such a good job that the tool will no longer be necessary. But that custom tool will be there if for some reason it is later needed.

When we have all of these three principles of Location, Imagination and Action working together to memorize foreign language grammar, this is our equation, and you'll see how that works with examples in upcoming chapters:

Location = Grammar rule

Image = Meaning of the rule/example

Action = Meaning of the rule/example

Before moving on, here are some final tips about creating memorable imagery and action for use inside of your Memory Palaces:

### **Clarity**

Make sure that the images you create are clear. I always talk about exaggerating your images, making them colorful, vibrant and as large as possible, but they should also stand out clearly in your mind. I've decreased

the amount of time I need to spend substantially by focusing on the clarity of my images, and also by focusing on how they stand in relation to the Memory Palace. It seems that the more clear my Memory Palaces and the more clear my associative imagery, the more the two Magnetically fuse together.

### **Precision of detail**

It takes only a second to focus on the details. If you are using a chicken to memorize something, what kind of chicken is it? A fat chicken, skinny chicken, red chicken, white chicken, chicken-in-boots with a cigarette hanging out of its beak - and if so, what kind of cigarette? Can the brand of the cigarette help trigger the target material you are memorizing? There is tremendous Magnetic wealth in the details.

### **Avoid relevance**

A lot of people I talk to and discuss the Magnetic Memory system with often try to make their associative imagery relevant. Granted, one should seize on coincidences. They happen all the time during my memorization sessions and work gangbusters for me. Normally, however, it is much better when the images are absurd and have seemingly nothing to do with the target material whatsoever. You could call this the principle of contrast, which is to say that the more the image sticks out like a sore thumb in your exquisitely magnetized Memory Palace, the easier it will come to mind when you call for it.

### **Avoid logic**

This point is almost the same, but differs in the fact that many people who describe their efforts to me put too much logic into the narrative elements of their image associations. They make pretty little vignettes that make sense. I'm sorry, dear Memorizer of German grammar, but things that make sense are not always sensible. Certainly not when it comes to memorization.

Here's an example I heard from a coaching client once upon a time: "The Statue of Liberty is leaning down to pick up her torch when Godzilla kicks her in the rump." This is a memorable image, I have to admit, but why is she picking up her torch? That's logical. It sucks the memorability out of the image. Why not have her picking up Salvador Dali's mustaches or a giant pig with Mount Rushmore tattooed on its flank? Having her pick up her

torch is *congruent* with reality. Having her pick up a piano made of sandwiches lacks congruency, and is thereby far more memorable.

Keep these four tips in mind as you create your images and you will be very successful with your memorization of German grammar.

With all of this in mind, let's move on to the next two fundamental principles.

### **Preparation and Predetermination**

Like the full Memory Palace organization system revealed in an upcoming chapter, Preparation and Predetermination are two memory skills that I have not seen talked about in any other memory books, apart from those I have written for memorizing other languages. Yet, both of these steps are essential elements to memorization success when using memory palaces to tackle grammar, or for that matter, anything you might like to remember.

Preparation, to begin with, involves relaxing the mind. I will share several thoughts about how best to relax in the concluding chapter, but for now, please realize that when the mind is tense, busy or exhausted, it will resist attempts at memorization and learning in general.

This fact does not mean that you won't be able to remember anything. It only means that their minds will not be in the most receptive state possible. But when your mind is open and relaxed, you'll be amazed by how these techniques will double, triple and even quadruple their results. Even a three-minute meditation before memorizing can work miracles, but see the conclusion for a larger list of possibilities.

Predetermination, on the other hand, involves charting out the memory locations and stations *before* attempting to place the words to be memorized in the Memory Palace system the Magnetic Memory Method teaches you to create. I must stress that before you populate your memory palaces with German grammar, however, you should consider building the entire system first – or at least a substantial portion of it. I've tried making up my Memory Palaces as I went along, and I can tell you that this leads to little more than frustration and impoverished results. So please spend the necessary time to predetermine the locations and label the individual stations within them (more on what stations are and how to use them coming up).

Before continuing, I want to stress that perfection is not the goal with either of these two principles. Preparation and predetermination work best when not forced, so it's important not to harm our forward movement by being too particular about every little detail. We just want to get the basic layout in place so that we can work relatively quickly with the words we want to memorize.

### **Preparing Your First Location**

It helps a great deal to draw maps of the locations you will be using and have some system for labeling the individual stations. Alternatively, you can list them in a Word document or catalog them in an Excel file. You can also easily visit the following webpage and download the free Magnetic Memory Worksheets that will allow you to simply fill in the details as you work on building your network of Memory Palaces.

<http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com/free-magnetic-memory-worksheets/>

Take advantage of this offer right now because these worksheets will help you instantly organize your locations and the stations within them. All you have to do is fill in the blanks. If you wish, you'll also get a free subscription to the Magnetic Memory Newsletter, which gives you access to helpful tips about amplifying your memory, inspirational notes, links to valuable videos and other memorization-related materials that will keep your mind magnetic for years to come.

Some students I've had like to sketch the different rooms or use computer architectural programs to create digital layouts. Although I personally don't go that far, I tend to do all three of the former in order to maximize the strength of the associations I'll be making.

### **Memory Palace Stations**

The first Memory Palace for grammar I ever created was my apartment in Saarbrücken, Germany. It had 8 stations, but after long experience, I recommend that every Memory Palace you create has at least 10. A station is a stop along a journey in a Memory Palace. It is the place where you will leave associative-imagery that helps you recall the grammar rule so that you can find it later.

This particular apartment where I created my first set of Memory Palace stations was (and still is) on the Philipinnenstraße.

Because the apartment was on the Philipinnenstraße, I used that apartment and every station in that palace to remember grammar rules having to do with **p**repositions. I could use any apartment I've lived in or any building with which I'm familiar, but this is the association that came to me naturally, and I think it is best to allow for such natural associations when you can.

Thus, a very basic but powerful principle is that every Memory Palace should start with same letter as the grammar rules that you will store there.

The Philipinnenstraße apartment had a nice layout:

1. My Office
2. Laundry Room
3. Bathroom
4. Bedroom
5. Wife's office
6. Living Room
7. Hallway
8. Kitchen

Later, I extended this palace outside of the apartment:

9. Outside of the door
10. Stairwell
11. Front door
12. Parking garage
13. Sidewalk
14. Used book store
15. Playground
16. Fire station
17. Church
18. Sushi restaurant

... and so forth

There are two important points that I need to mention here. In creating these “journeys” through the stations of a Memory Palace, you need to structure your progress in such a way that you:

- a) Never cross your own path
- b) Never trap yourself

If, when you are rehearsing or searching for your words, you have to cross your own path, you are liable to confuse yourself. You will find yourself pausing to remember how exactly the journey went, and such interruptions will impede your recall. Therefore, it is best to create a journey that follows a straight line. Even with great experience in the art of memorization, this principle will remain key.

Second, it is important that you don't trap yourself. The reason I was able to add more stations to my 'P' (prepositions) Memory Palace so easily after I finished with my initial 8 is because I started at a terminal point in the apartment: my office. Had I started in the kitchen and moved toward my office, I would have trapped myself – unless I wanted to jump off the small balcony and down onto the street, that is.

Making an imaginative leap from the balcony to the street is entirely possible, but it is unnatural, and nothing I would do in reality. Thus, such an action causes the mind unnecessary work. The point of this memorization strategy is to *always* reduce the amount of work your mind has to do in order to get to the associations that will prompt the sound and meaning of the words you want to recall.

Therefore, although you will be exaggerating shapes, colors and actions in your memory work, I feel that it is best to keep the path you take through the palaces as natural and free from exaggeration as possible. Save anything that requires your memory for the things you want to remember and eliminate all else.

In each of those stations in a Memory Palace, I would then place individual words and use the principles of imagination and action to make them memorable.

Here is the important equation to keep in mind:

Location/station = Word

Image = meaning of grammar rule/representative example

Action = meaning of grammar rule/representative example

We're going to see examples of that equation in action soon, but for now, it is important to understand the basic organizational layout of a Memory Palace and spend a bit of time constructing one by obeying the principles laid out in this chapter.

Try this method out for yourself. Describe the layout of the place you live in now and make a list of at least 10 individual stations. You can make a handmade list or use an Excel file. There is good reason to get started with Excel files right away for the purposes of testing the strength of your memorizations in the future.

Here are some actions steps that will help you master the techniques taught in this chapter and give you ideas for how to help your friends and families learn the techniques too. Obviously, you should not be teaching something that you yourself haven't had success with.

1. Select at least 10 different locations that you remember well. You can also predetermine the number of grammar rules you want to memorize and match that with the number of Memory Palaces you create. Approximately 30 should do. These locations could be apartments or houses you've lived in, schools, libraries, workplaces or art galleries. All that matters is that you know them well and can walk around them in your mind. I find that movie theatres with multiple screening rooms work really well for me, and as a film professor, I have over a dozen theatres that I am intimately familiar with.
2. Select and list at least 10 "stations" within each of the locations you've listed. These different stations will become the places you will leave each of the words you want to memorize within each Memory Palace. These stations can be entire rooms, which I recommend when you are just getting started, or they can be more specific. You could use an armchair and then the lamp table beside it as two different stations, for instance. Even though you will not need to remember any of these individual stations (that's the whole point),



you should still write them down for the purpose of testing the strength and rigor of your memorizations.

3. Take a walk through each palace and the stations that you have identified. While wandering, make each and every station vivid in your mind. You can imagine cleaning everything out if you like, removing all the dust and dirt that can get in the way of your memorization process.
4. Draw maps. Creating visual representations of each location and the stations within them can be very powerful and save you a lot of testing time later. You definitely don't want to be vague about what comes next in your Memory Palaces. Again, using an Excel file is also a great idea if you are not a visual person, though doing both is highly recommended.
5. Practice remembering trivial things where there is no pressure if you make mistakes. The top ten highest mountains or largest rivers make for great practice. Shopping lists also make for good practice. Remember to make everything large and colorful.
6. Include action. Let's say you're trying to remember that you need carrots on your shopping list. Imagine that you are jumping on the carrot and hurting it badly. You can use whatever image comes to your mind, so long as it is over-the-top, hilarious, zany and memorable. If you relax, you'll find that your mind will come up with material very naturally.
7. On that point, always practice in a state of relaxation. I have included specific notes on the best relaxation techniques for memorization in the final chapter. These relaxation practices are also good for any form of creativity.
8. Make sure that you are having fun. If not, take a break and come back to it. When you start out practicing with memory items that have no consequence, you enable yourself to play freely with the concept. If, for example, you start with German grammar right away, you risk associating frustration with the language you've always dreamed of learning. Make sure that you can memorize at least ten items you know nothing about before attempting any words. For example, you could memorize the ten tallest mountains in order of

size. Or you could work on one of the bonus exercises included at the end of this book.

9. Give yourself an exam. As I've stressed, you need to write everything down for the purposes of testing. This is not rote learning. It's a method of giving you the ability to double check. Also, when testing, don't look at the original list you created. Write out everything fresh and then compare the list you wrote out from memory with the original. I've created this video for you to refer to when it comes to testing your memorization work: [How to Use Excel Files to Support Your Memory Palaces](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMPMuOyfke4).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMPMuOyfke4>

The truth is, however, that if you're using familiar locations, you won't need to test yourself because your passage through the Memory Palaces will be automatic and natural.

10. Teach. The best way to truly learn a technique is to teach it to someone else. You should discuss your newfound knowledge about memorization as often as possible because this will deepen your familiarity with the techniques and prove to yourself and others that these things really do work. It's not showing off to do so. You'll also be making the world a better place because you'll be enabling others to use their minds more effectively. Make working on your own memory and helping others improve theirs. This should be a habit for life.

## **Chapter Two: Applying the Main Principles to Learning and Memorizing German Grammar Rules**

This chapter explains how to use Memory Palaces to memorize German grammar rules. By this time, you've already identified at least 10 locations based on familiar places you remember with ease, and ideally, fondness (try to avoid using locations for Memory Palaces to which you hold negative associations). By this point, you've also made sure that all of your Memory Palaces are charted out either on paper or using an Excel file for testing purposes and that each Memory Palace has at least 10 stations within the 10 Memory Palace locations.

In other words, you've got a Magnetic Memory Matrix.

10 Memory Palaces x 10 Memory Palace stations = 100 individual places to store information contained along 10 individual journeys that you hold tightly in your mind.

### **Identify The Grammar Rules You Want To Memorize**

In order to memorize German grammar rules, we first need to identify the ones we want to focus on. At first glance, there appears to be an overwhelming number of them. However, it's important to pick a limited set and work through them one at a time. Using Memory Palaces will help you contain your approach by placing a constraint on how much you try to work with at any given time.

A lot of how you use Memory Palaces depends on how much you've already studied German grammar as well. For example, if you already know how to form plurals, you don't need to build or use a Memory Palace for those rules. If you struggle with declension, however, you might want to create a variety of Memory Palaces or a multi-station journey in one of them to tackle that subject.

Let's use declension as an example.

A suggested Memory Palace approach would involve starting with just one that has at least 10 stations and that follows the principles of not crossing your own path and not trapping yourself so that you can always add more stations.

The first major concept in the area of declension is how to use the accusative. This requires the ability to understand what is the direct object of a sentence.

In the sentence, “Der Mann sieht das Auto,” the car is the direct object and the man looking at the car is the subject.

To memorize the rule that the “accusative” is used with direct objects, you need to create an image that will help remind you of this and place it at the first station of your first declension Memory Palace.

An example might be a man setting a car on fire with a lighter and gasoline coming from his eyes while wearing a t-shirt that says “subject.” The car can say object too, and if it helps, you can have a judge watching the proceedings to help remember that this is the “accusative” form. I might place this image in my bedroom.

Of course, this is an example from my head. In order to feel the power of the Magnetic Memory Method, you’ll need to come up with your own images. Then, take a second to make sure that they are very large in your mind, filled with color and bursting with action.

It’s not enough, for example, to just think about this guy squirting flames and gasoline at the car from his eyeballs. It has to be amplified to ensure that it is truly, truly memorable. You want the image to literally grab your attention when you visit that station in your Memory Palace and literally leap out at you to remind you that the accusative form is used to describe the direct object in sentences.

If you need more than one example, proceed to your next station. In your Memory Palace, the hallway might serve as that second station and you could “see” “Wir kaufen das Auto.” In this case, the image could be a group of people wearing t-shirts that say “subject” while throwing a “coffin” (which sounds a bit like “kaufen”) at the car.

From this point on, you simply move through the declension rules, creating memorable images at each station along with examples that help you recall them.

Although this book does not pretend to be a complete study of German grammar in and of itself, here are some suggested Memory Palaces you should prepare in advance:

Definite and Indefinite Articles (20+ stations)

Declension (start with 10, but you'll probably need 15-20 stations)

Personal pronouns (no more than 10 stations should be necessary)

Negation (20+ stations)

Prepositions (6-10 stations for the general rules with examples, 60+ for a fuller list that can be worked on later, probably using multiple Memory Palaces )

Conjunctions (15-20 stations and as with prepositions, many more once you've learned and memorized the basics)

Past Tenses (20+ stations)

Possessive Pronouns (20+ stations)

Reflexive Pronouns (20+ stations)

Passive Voice, i.e. "werden" and "sein" (15-20 stations depending on how many examples you would like to have)

Conjunctive and Conditional (20+ stations – possible more than one Memory Palace)

Modal Verbs (10-15 stations)

Relative clauses (10-15 stations)

Adjectives (20+ stations with the likely need for more Memory Palaces due to examples needed for multiple declensions)

Adverbs of location (20+ stations)

Adverbs of time (20+ stations)

Compound Words (10-15 stations with as many more as you want as you add more compound words. [How to Learn and Memorize German Vocabulary](#) will assist you if you need more help with memorizing vocabulary. However, with a bit of thought, you can likely already see how the ideas in this book can help you memorize vocabulary too.)

Interrogative phrases (20+ stations)

Numerals (20+ stations)

Time and Date (10-15 stations)

Comparative Clauses (20+ stations)

Imperative (15-20 stations)

Participle, Gerund and Infinitive Constructions (20+ stations, likely 2-3 Memory Palaces)

### **Wait A Minute ... That Sounds Like A Lot of Memory Palaces!**

One of the common objections to the Magnetic Memory Method is that it takes more work to set up the Memory Palaces than it does to simply memorize the grammar rules by rote.

In truth, to build 25-30 Memory Palaces with the appropriate number of stations, you're looking at 2-5 hours of effort. If it takes you longer than that, it will still be worth it, but you're probably overcomplicating things somehow.

If you have trouble finding this many Memory Palaces, you do not need to have all of them in advance. Just pick one of the features of grammar that you want to study, or five or ten, and start working with them while keeping in the back of your mind that you need to start gathering and preparing more Memory Palaces.

Above all, let your passion for learning and mastering German be your guide. If you're not a natural at simply memorizing things as you read and review them and don't like barraging yourself with index cards, a memory method based on dedicated locations is your best bet because once you've learned how to code and decode associative-imagery and learned how to use Memory Palaces to find these "pictures" in your mind, there is really no limit to what you can learn and memorize. It just takes preparation, predetermination and a bit of experience using Memory Palaces and your imagination.

## Conclusion

To conclude this chapter, here is a list of action steps for immediate implementation on your journey toward memorizing grammar, regardless of the language:

1. Don't do anything until you've fully and clearly understood how to use location, imagination and action in order to effectively memorize at least ten grammar items and have at least 10 Memory Palaces with 10 stations in each. If you're really lacking in Memory Palaces, then feel free to get started with one, but understand that this means you'll have to create another one before you continue.
2. Take your time creating the individual locations and stations within the locations. It will take between 2-5 hours to come up with the fullest set of Memory Palaces that you'll need depending on how many grammar rule types that you want to focus on. The good news is that you can speed up the process by being relaxed while you create. Your creative mind has everything that you need, so long as you can push your critical mind aside and let your imagination do what it does best: imagine. In order to help you develop Memory Palaces, you can visit this page for free worksheets as well as the free Memory Improvement Master Plan that adds more approaches to memory from an ongoing coaching standpoint once you've finished reading this book.

<http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com/free-magnetic-memory-worksheets/>

Be sure to claim these worksheets. They will literally do almost all the work of building Memory Palaces for you.

3. Ensure that your journey in each and every Memory Palace can be undertaken without crossing your own path or getting trapped. It is tempting to think that one can get away with circling around the forward trajectory of a path, but in the long run, this will only confuse matters. Strive for clear, crisp and direct journeys so that you

don't need to think about what belongs where. Remember, the fewer things you have to remember, the easier it will be to recall the grammar words you have placed in palaces.

4. Use Word or Excel or a handwritten document for each Memory Palace based upon the grammar rule you're going to focus on in each Memory Palace. Start with the first location and proceed linearly from there. Don't forget that the purpose of this part of the process is twofold. First, preparing a written record will help you build your memory palaces with much greater detail than doing it in your imagination alone. Second, your written record will allow you to test the words you have placed in your mind.
5. Examine the full extent of the information you'll need to memorize with respect to each grammar rule. Allow your imagination to take the principles you have been learning from this book and help them guide your Memory Palace construction. Use relaxation to facilitate the process.
6. At the risk of being repetitive, please make sure that you are using the location, imagination and action principles. I mentor many people and a significant number of them report or demonstrate that they've fallen back on rote learning. They are repeating the rules to themselves again and again rather than engaging the system I've taught them. Believe it or not, but both the mind and the body find this very stressful, contributing to fight or flight responses, frustration and ultimately failure. Future chapters describe a number of supplementary exercises that you can use to train your memory in greater depth if you feel that you need more training. I can tell you that if I hadn't gone through those exercises myself, I never would have devised Magnetic Memory Method in the first place, let alone developed any skill with acquiring a second language. They may not seem related, but think of it as the relationship between push-ups and boxing. Pushing the floor away from the body is one of the best ways to strengthen your punch, even though it's a completely different movement.
7. Where applicable, learn and memorize the meanings of any vocabulary words that you don't already know as you memorize the



grammar rules (I assume that as a reader of this book, you already have a sufficient enough vocabulary to improve your grammar). Decide upon what images you will use to indicate various features of the language and use them consistently. This will become second nature. You don't have to use the images I've suggested and most likely shouldn't. Go with whatever your imagination brings to you naturally.

8. Decide upon a focus. You can learn a great deal about German just by working on prepositions, for example. In many cases, the grammar rules blend together, so it's not as if you'll be missing out too much on other rules and concepts by focusing in just one area until you feel that you've gained traction.
9. Sit with a dictionary as often as possible, ideally a monolingual dictionary that has full sentence examples. Simply reading how words are used now that you've understood the concepts at a deeper level and have them memorized will make reading the dictionary a fascinating experience. Don't listen to language learning teachers who will tell you that reading the dictionary is boring. It may well be, but usually we are told this and accept the idea without actually trying it out for ourselves. Dictionaries are amazing "snapshots" of what certain people think a language looks like and are often surprisingly accurate. It's worth reading at least a page a day, and this is easily accomplished by having a dictionary in the washroom.
10. Supplement what you are learning by other elements of language learning practice. Go to the library, Netflix, YouTube or a store that sells DVDs and stock up on programs in German. Mixing Memory Palaces for grammar rules with as much immersion as possible will make for great strides in your learning. Likewise, you can listen to audiobooks, read comics, seek out bilingual editions of novels and listen to music in German in order to see and hear the principles played out. There are endless possibilities and you will be glad that you have taken this extra step.
11. Be careful that the images you use actually help you remember the meanings of the grammar rules. It's a painful experience to have installed familiarity with a concept, only to forget what it means.

Please see the chapter on compounding for additional ideas on how to make sure you never forget the meanings of the words you have learned.

## Chapter Three: Notes on Getting Started With Using Memory Palaces

German grammar rules are most rapidly acquired by learners who come to the task prepared with the necessary number of Memory Palaces for the chosen task at hand (i.e. prepositions) and an understanding of how to use the techniques we've discussed so far (Memory Palace construction and the use of associative-imagery to encode and decode the target information).

For those who are new to Memory Palaces, one of the best ways to gain a "quick victory" is to start simply.

Super simply.

One of the best ways to introduce the use of Memory Palaces and help people see how a sequence of information can be quickly and easily memorized is to memorize the alphabet backwards to the point that you can recite it the way you would tell someone your home address.

It's also a great way to get started building your first Memory Palace.

### **Exercise**

*Before you begin, please be sure to read through the entire exercise so that you understand it completely.*

Your goal is to create a Memory Palace with 26 stations. That would be 6.5 rooms assuming that you have four stations per room.

This is easily achieved.

Once you've built the Memory Palace, making sure that you've not trapped yourself and have not crossed your path along the journey, you're ready to begin.

Starting at your "terminal station," the innermost station from which you'll always begin the journey, pick a concrete image that starts with the letter Z. You could choose a:

Zebra, a zeppelin, a zigzag piece of rolling paper, a zipper, a zombie, a zoologist or a zucchini. All that matters is that you work with something concrete.

Next, make the object you've chosen and placed at your first station large, bright, colorful and have that object engaged in some form of zany action.

For example, you could have a zebra feeding a piece of zucchini to a zombie.

Moving to the next station, pick a word that begins with Y, such as yacht, yearbook or (egg) yolk. Make sure that whatever you choose is a concrete image. "Young" and "yodel" are not concrete and cannot be made into pictures very easily. You also may want to avoid plurals. For example, one yolk will do, whereas two might be more difficult to manage. However, one yodeling yacht can be made into a very bizarre image and this will help you remember that the letter Y comes after Z when you are trying to learn the alphabet backwards. It is a crisp image that includes not only a weird action, but also includes a phonic element as well.

You'll also notice that I'm not only working with objects that start with the target letter, but also trying to have the action start with that same letter. This is almost always possible and falls under the principle of "compounding" that we'll be discussing later.

You'll find yourself a bit more limited with X, but at least you have either an X-ray, xylophone or Xerox machine to work with and place at your third station. If you like, and so long as it obeys the linear journey, you could have this X object interacting with your Y object. You'll just have to experiment.

Here are some suggested images for the rest of the alphabet:

W: Wagon, walnut, watch, wig, wreath.

V: Van, vase, violin, voodoo doll, (weather) vane.

U: Umbrella, baseball umpire, undershirt, urinal, (hotel) usher.

T: Teaspoon, textbook, ticket, tinsel, torch.

S: Snake, saber, sandwich, scissors, shrub.

R: Rabbit, radio, razor, rope, rose.

Q: Quart of milk, quill, question mark, Queen of Hearts playing card.

P: Paper, peach, peacock, peanut, pill, puzzle.

O: Octopus, olive, opera singer, owl, oyster.

N: Needle, necktie, newspaper, nickel (coin), nurse.

M: Machine gun, manikin, mailman, microscope, mosquito.

L: Ladder, lemon, log, lipstick, lasso.

K: Kaleidoscope, kazoo, key, kitten.

J: Jawbone, janitor, judge, jug, jeep.

I: Icicle, investigator (Private Eye like Columbo), ivory tusk.

H: Hacksaw, hatchet, hawk, haystack, helicopter.

G: Ghost, goat, golfball, your grandfather or grandmother.

F: Fork, faucet, (bag of) fertilizer, football, fox.

E: Elephant, eagle, egg, eyeball.

D: Dancer, dagger, dog, drummer, duck.

C: (Pack of playing) card, catalog, (treasure) chest, chimney.

B: Baby, barbell, barbeque, baritone, battery.

A: Airplane, ape, apricot, axe, ant, your favorite aunt.

### **What To Do Next**

At this point, you should have one Memory Palace with 26 stations and have decided which words you want associate with each letter of the alphabet. Taking care to work backwards (i.e. starting with Z), you should memorize no more than ten objects at a time.

As you're memorizing, don't think about the fact that you're memorizing the alphabet backwards. Simply memorize the objects and get to a point where you can easily recite each of the first set of ten.

Once you have the first set of ten memorized, simply recite the first letter of each word by mentally visiting where the object that starts with that particular letter stands along your Memory Palace journey. You'll find that it's quite easy to do so and you'll already be significantly through the entire alphabet once you're got your first ten. From there, it's just a matter of completing the rest of the alphabet.

Remember:

Location = word (or in this case object)

Image = meaning (or in this case the first letter of the word for the object)

Action = meaning (or in this case the first letter of the word for the object)

All you are doing is following a journey and decoding the crazy actions of the objects you've placed along the way in order to reveal to your mind what the information is that you wanted to remember.

In sum, if you can do this with the alphabet, you can use this memory technique to memorize anything. Although memorizing grammar rules, as we shall see, is a bit more involved, the procedure is the same, and with a small amount of practice, the results are massive, provided that you use what you've memorized as part of your general language learning goals, something I have talked about at length in [The Ultimate Language Learning Secret](#) of which advanced memory abilities are just a part.

### **Advanced Notes On Getting Started With Memory Palaces**

We've already talked about some of the points covered in this chapter, but now that you've had a chance to build a Memory Palace using a simple exercise, I want to provide you with some review about creating and maintaining the palaces in order to add depth and detail to the process. The more time you spend now on understanding the concept involved, the more time you'll have later to focus fully and completely on learning and memorizing German grammar principles with ease.

For the first point of review, remember that each Memory Palace you build should have at least 10 stations, each prepared and ready to be populated with association-rich images that will bring the words you have learned easily to mind whenever you need them. As ever, your Memory Palaces should be constructed in such a way that you will never cross your own path or reach a dead end.

Keep in mind that you always want to be able to add more stations. It is unlikely that you will ever need more than 50 in any given palace, but if ever you do, you should be prepared to have places to add them. Otherwise, you can easily create a new Memory Palace, or use one that you've already prepared, to pick up where you left off in the previous Memory Palace.

Some people tell me that it is impossible for any given Memory Palace to have so many stations. However, if you think of all the places you've lived and the surrounding areas, it will quickly become clear to you that the possibilities are endless. If you can squeeze just 10 stations out of your current home by using individual rooms and doorways, then with a little thought, you can extend that to twenty.

You can ask yourself, for example, what route takes you to the bus stop? Surely there are numerous memorable locations on the way: the bakery, the florist, the dental clinic, the hearing loss centre. If you take the subway, each stop can become its own station where you leave an image. For years I have used both the Toronto, New York and Berlin subway and train systems as Memory Palaces and each provide countless stations where I can leave words that I want to remember for easy recall.

*Remember: preparing and predetermining your locations and stations in advance is of the utmost importance when it comes to rapidly acquiring a large pool of grammar rules. Please spend the time to create your constellation of palaces before placing even a single German grammar rule into your memory.*

The next matter of importance is relaxation. Please see the final chapter for detailed information about creating the perfect mental and physical state for grammar acquisition.

Next is the matter of maintenance. At the risk of being repetitive, I have included this information twice in this book. As we all know, our months have 29, 30 or 31 days in them. There are 12 months in each year and 24 hours in each and every day. I'm not trying to be coy, but rather just want to point out the facts in case you're a person who feels that you have limited time. The abundance of days and months and hours that we have in each year surely means that you will always have plenty of time for recalling the grammar rules you've memorized each and every month.

And speaking of years, for many years I had the best piece of advice I ever heard tacked to my wall, a saying that read, "None of us work nearly as hard as we think we do." I've never forgotten this advice, and in all honesty, keeping it in mind has doubled my productivity and thereby my accomplishments by correctly channeling my activity in the right direction.

Keep this advice in mind and you'll be able to do the same.

Back to the matter of maintaining your Memory Palaces and the material that you place within them, although the memorization of grammar using the system taught in this book has lasting power, it is important to perform “quality control” and maintenance. This means revisiting the grammar rules you have memorized on a set pattern.

I schedule monthly maintenance sessions loosely based on the number of Memory Palaces and the urgency of the information stored within them. In general, I like World Memory Champion Dominic O’Brien’s rehearsal schematic, which he calls the Rule of Five:

First review: Immediately

Second review: 24 hours later

Third review: One week later

Fourth review: One month later

Fifth review: Three months later

As I’ll discuss during the final review at the end of this book, I think you’ll benefit more by reviewing more often than this, but even so, O’Brien’s basic layout is valuable and you should keep it in mind.

My suggestion is that you work like this:

First reviews: Immediately, one hour later, three hours later, five hours later.

Second reviews: The next morning, the next afternoon, the next evening.

Third review: once a day for each day of the following week.

Fourth review, once a day for a week the following month.

... and from there on in, keep reviewing at least once a month, if not more often for as long as you want to keep the information intact.

That said, because as a serious student of German, you’ll be constantly reading, writing, speaking and listening to German being spoken, this material is going to integrate at a much higher level and become part of the fabric of your mind. Can you imagine waking up one day and finding that you’ve developed competence in German aided in large part simply by having spent a bit of time reviewing your Memory Palaces.



Taking such steps towards patterned review when it comes to rehearsing both the Memory Palaces themselves and the material you've placed within them is well worth the effort and the exercise also strengthens your familiarity with the language because you begin to see patterns in the language you are studying. And as you work, the more you use German to memorize the German grammar rules, the better.

### **Advanced Recall Rehearsal**

There is a huge difference between wandering a Memory Palace in your mind and repeating the information you've memorized and actually writing it down in order to test the strength and integrity of what you've memorized.

In order to achieve success even quicker, as you memorize, keep a written record of the material. Then, as you practice recall, without having that written record anywhere near you so that you're not compelled to cheat, write down what you've memorized in the order that you've memorized it on a sheet of paper.

When you're done, compare that list of grammar rules you've produced from your memory with the original record. If you find any problems, you're now in a position to troubleshoot. You will do this using the Magnetic Memory Method principle of compounding, which we'll cover in the next chapter.

## **Chapter Four: How to Extend Memory Retention Using Compounding Exercises & Generate Excitement for Learning German Grammar**

This chapter will be useful for anyone memorizing German grammar, but especially for those who need to learn the language for purposes other than pleasure. Many professionals learn German for entrepreneurial purposes or for work. Without true passion behind the enterprise, even the simple technique of using memory palaces can seem drab and unexciting. There is hope and this chapter will put you in control of how you approach your memorization sessions.

In the second part of this chapter, we'll talk about compounding to help not only your retention of the grammar principles, but also troubleshoot any recall issues you may be having. But because some of these activities involve "work" (actually, it's more like play if you're doing it right), that's why I want to talk to you a little bit about ...

### **Generating Excitement**

In one of his information products devoted to helping people optimize their mental processes, Mike Koenigs talks about speed-reading. For him, one of the best methods for reading a book quickly is to pretend that you will be interviewing the author on live television the next day. Millions of viewers will be watching, which means that you'll need to know the book very well, with both depth of understanding about the message and accuracy about the specific details of the content.

I think Koenigs' idea is brilliant and very adaptable to memorizing grammar. When I am heading to events, parties or professional opportunities where I know I will need more grammar mastery on hand in order to maximize the potential benefits of the occasion, I create urgency and excitement by pretending that *I* am going to be interviewed. When learning and memorizing new German grammar, for example, I pretend that I have a book to sell that has been translated into German and know that people are only going to want to own it forever if I am able to win their hearts by speaking to them intelligently and in clear, crisp and grammatically perfect terms. To amp things up, I sometimes pretend that a movie deal is in the works, but only if I can convince the producer that I know German well-enough to consult on the screenplay and production.

There are many motivational tricks like this that anyone can use to get themselves excited if they don't naturally feel motivated to learn and memorize the grammar of their target language.

Now onto the job of ...

### **Compounding**

When revisiting words, you will sometimes discover that you cannot perfectly recall certain words and their meanings. You feel sure that your images are vibrant, well-located and buzzing with action and energy. Yet, when you look for the words, you still struggle to recall them.

This can lead to stress and anxiety because you know that without being able to call them to mind easily and effortlessly, you are going to be self-conscious about struggling when speaking or taking a test and the thought of stress alone will make you even more self-conscious.

Relax. Refuse to be frustrated or concerned because this is simply an opportunity to compound your memorizations.

Many of my students feel that they want to replace the original images they've created, but I caution against this because doing so can leave "fossils" that will only confuse matters later. The more popular term for this problem in the mnemonics community is "ghosting." However, I dislike this terminology because our memorized material should not become ethereal when it dies. If it must fade, it should leave a fossil behind that we can "pour" energy back into.

Thus, when you encounter associative-imagery that needs work, add to the images and actions in order to enhance them and improve your recall rate. Take the following example:

Let's say that you're trying to remember the rule that, when it comes to reflexive pronouns in German, they are often used in conjunction with a verb, something that is quite different than in English.

For example, you might simply say, "I'm amused" when referring to something that has amused you. In German, however, you would say, "Ich amüsiere mich." In order to memorize this, you may need to memorize a list of verbs and have the image of an arrow pointing at you or at your bridging figure in order to memorize that these words essentially have a directional

sensibility. In other words, they are used when indicating that someone is doing something and how they are used depends on whether they are Akkusativ or Dativ.

The akkusativ reflexive pronouns are:

mich (myself) – you might see an arrow pointing at the **Michelin** man.

dich (yourself) – you might see an arrow pointing at a friend holding a fragile **dish**.

euch (yourselves) – you might see Popeye snapping a quiver full of arrows from the air, preventing them from flying into a group of people while shouting “oy!” Add the “ch” sound, of course.

sich (himself/herself/itself) – you might see yourself, (i.e. “ich” carrying a big S over your head and handing it to the “her majesty” the queen, but saying “herself” the majesty instead in your mind).

Obviously, these are just a few samples and reflect how my imagination works and each of these images are large, colorful and filled with vibrant and zany action. Using these principles you’ll need to use your own imagination in conjunction with a good German grammar book in order to come up with your own associative-imagery for placement in a Memory Palace.

You can have the dativ forms along the same journey or place them in a different Memory Palace. Or, you can create a list of sample reflexive verbs and have them all together along a single journey.

Your best bet, however, is to have the pronouns in one Memory Palace and a list of reflexive verbs categorized alphabetically in another. Here are a few examples of these reflexive verbs in their simple forms:

“sich anziehen” means to get dressed, so the list would be:

ich anziehe mich

du ziehst dich

er/sie/es zieht sich

wir ziehen uns

irh zieht euch

sie/Sie anziehen sich

When you encounter a word like this that you need to make reflexive, you can simply consult the journey that you've made for the reflexive pronouns and "run" it along the reflexive verb to find the formulation you need in order to make meaning.

When done correctly in "conjunction" with Recall Rehearsal and regular reading, speaking, writing and listening to German, your speed with these techniques will advance rapidly.

As always, please remember that having action in your associative-imagery always makes the target information more memorable and more readily available for recall. And there is always a way to compound images to make them more memorable. *Always*, especially when you relax while you work.

That said, please realize that there is nothing wrong with your mind if you find weaknesses in your Memory Palace systems. It's just a matter of going back and compounding the images. In most cases, a second pass will do the trick. Any more than three passes suggests that you need to go back and review the central tenants of the techniques taught in this book.

If you want to succeed with memory techniques such as the Magnetic Memory Method, always avoid rote learning at all costs. The point is to rely solely on your imagination. There aren't going to be any books or index cards around when you're completing a test in German or engaging in a conversation. Just you, your lungs, your tongue, your mouth, your imagination and the ways that you've used it to learn German grammar and vocabulary to create sentences.

In addition to compounding your associative-imagery, you might like to compound and reinforce the Memory Palaces themselves. If your memory of some locations is not as strong as you originally thought, then you may want to work with another location altogether to form a better Memory Palace.

Ultimately, the amount of time spent on rehearsing, compounding and "renovating" your Memory Palaces and the associative-imagery you place within them depends on the level of experience and general enthusiasm for memorization. Again, make sure that you complete the preparation and

predetermination exercises as fully as possible. Giving them their full attention will save you plenty of time and sweat later. But when leaks in the system do occur, no stress. Simply wander through your palaces and make “repairs.”

Let’s go deeper into the topics of maintenance and recall. I’ve started to call this process “Recall Rehearsal” (the two words are actually interchangeable, so feel free to reverse them).

### **Recall Rehearsal is super-easy to do!**

First off, it requires you to create a mindset. You need to decide that you're going to make the most of the poems you've spent time memorizing. It doesn't matter if you've memorized 10 words, 20 or 150. In order to ease these verses into long-term memory, you need to practice recalling them.

And there are other benefits to recall as well, such as building your familiarity with German grammar *and* improving your memory skills at the same time.

Another important aspect to develop is the understanding that Magnetic Memory Method Recall Rehearsal is that none of this equals rote learning. Even though Recall Rehearsal involves repetition, it's a completely different process. The effects are better, deeper, longer lasting, and most importantly, fun because they rely entirely on your imagination rather than dull repetition that relies upon things outside of your mind.

Rote learning, on the other hand, involves either repeatedly looking at index cards, writing words over and over again until they stick in your memory or using spaced-repetition software, something that is designed to work in conjunction with (or against), the so-called Ebbinghaus effect. Ebbinghaus talked about learning curves, forgetting curves and memory decay and a lot of other really interesting concepts that you can look up on your own.

But keep in mind ...

None of what he said about forgetting *must* be true.

Evidence suggests that mnemonics (the memory techniques upon which the Magnetic Memory Method is grounded) can overcome the forgetting curve with remarkable accuracy.

However, what a lot of people don't teach you is that mnemonics need to be repeated on a patterned schedule. Dominic O'Brien is one of the few, and I find his approach not too shabby.

O'Brien calls his rehearsal strategy "The Rule of Five."

First review: Immediately

Second review: 24 hours later

Third review: One week later

Fourth review: One month later

Fifth review: Three months later

(Discussed on <http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2013-12/30/how-to-improve-your-memory>.)

The problem is, I don't think this is good enough for memorizing German grammar overall. For true success, you need a much more rigorous pattern of recall. That said, including the basics of O'Brien's methodology is a very good idea in addition to Magnetic Memory Method Recall Rehearsal.

Recall Rehearsal, then, uses the month as means of establishing cumulative, patterned recall.

Our months have either 29, 30 or 31 days. Because most of us are working with the Latin alphabet in one form or another, we can essentially assign however much material we feel we can cope with to each day and cover a great deal of grammar rules over an entire month, easing them deeper and deeper into long term memory as we go along. Thus, you can rehearse five grammar rules on Day 1, five on Day 2, and keep going until you reach the end, at which point I suggest you reverse the process. I also suggest that you travel your German grammar Memory Place journeys not only forwards and backwards, but that you pop into the center and move backward to the beginning and again to the center to move towards the end.

You can also leap frog for extra exercise, defeating something that Ebbinghaus called the “serial positioning effect” and the “recency effect” (both suggest that information decays more rapidly depending on when and in what position in a list of information you’ve worked with). Here’s how to leapfrog:

Let’s say you have 10 stations. Instead of moving from 1-10, then 10-1, followed by 5-1 and 6-10, you can also travel the Memory Palace journey by moving from station 1-3, 2-4, 3-5, 4-6 and so on. Do this both forwards and backwards. Your memory, your mind and your understanding of German grammar will increase immensely.

And if you can rehearse 10 German rules a day, you can get through the entire lot of what you need to grasp much quicker and therefore cover more ground and create a denser compounding effect. A lot depends on how many Memory Palaces you’ve created, and to what extent you no longer need to rehearse certain German grammar principles in earnest because they've already entered your long term grammar pool.

Keep in mind that all of this is going to work *so much better* if you are also engaged in regularly using German. In this way, you'll be drawing upon the mnemonics you've created, which amounts to strengthening your overall memory abilities, creativity and building fluency.

Everything is a package that works together when you put everything together.

It's as simple as that.

Of course, time is involved, and in order to help you with that, I've written [\*The Ultimate Language Learning Secret\*](#). The book talks a lot about time management when it comes to learning a language, along with developing the proper mindset, making the right friends who can help you learn and shows you the joys of enjoying each and every step of your language learning journey. The book also shows you how to train your family, friends and loved ones to give you the necessary space for language learning without having to worry about feeling selfish, needy or coming off as a language learning diva. This is one of the hugest barriers that language



learners face, so if you're interested in learning more about the mindset needed to learn a language like German, give *The Ultimate Language Learning Secret* a try.

## Chapter Five: Example Memory Palace For Inseparable and Separable Prefixes

Let's begin the chapter with a representative example of how to memorize the Inseparable Prefixes (untrennbar) using a Memory Palace.

When picking locations for your Memory Palaces, it's best to simply relax and allow your mind to find the perfect place. When I worked on a list of inseparable prefixes in German, I instantly thought of my professor Ian Balfour at York University in Toronto. Although it had been years since I'd taken a course with him, our minds have a keen ability to remember the layouts of buildings, making it easy for me to recall the floor plan in detail, not only of the lecture hall, but the entire building. This made it very easy to go through this location and chart out a number of stations for placing the inseparable German prefixes.

The inseparable prefixes are: be-, emp-, ent-, er-, miss-, ver-, and zer-.

Because there are seven prefixes, seven stations were required:

1. West entrance/exit
2. East wall (approximately the middle)
3. Podium
4. West wall (approximately the middle)
5. East entrance/exit
6. Small coffee canteen
7. Entrance to agora

In memorize these fixed prefixes, it is important to keep in mind the Magnetic Memory Method principles of bridging figures and word division detailed in *How to Learn and Memorize German Vocabulary*.

In brief, word division allows us to break words into pieces and then associate them with bridging figures that travel along the Memory Palace journey from word to word in our vocabulary Memory Palaces. We can use the same principle here when working on memorizing these word parts so

that when we later work on vocabulary, we already have a large number of bridging figures to work with.

Thus, in this Memory Palace, I placed:

1. West entrance/exit: **be** – “**B**ethany” from the movie *Dogma*. She is arguing with Hamlet about the proper pronunciation of “be” of “to be or not to be.”
2. East wall (approximately the middle): **emp** – Neo from *The Matrix* delivering an electromagnetic impulse against an Agent (this is called an EMP throughout *The Matrix* movies).
3. Podium: **ent** – Instead of a professor, there is an **entertainment** center showing Neo in *The Matrix* shooting the EMP. By combining these two processes together, I am executing the principle of compounding. One supports the other. It also allows me to create zany and bizarre action.
4. West wall (approximately the middle): **er** – my brother **E**ric is throwing a picture of himself, (i.e. a picture of **E**ric) at the **entertainment** center.
5. East entrance/exit: **miss** – **M**iss Piggy is jostling Kermit the Frog, shouting, “It’s **MISS** Piggy!” in his ear.
6. Small coffee canteen: **ver** – my friend **V**era is slapping **V**eronica from the *Archie* comics for trying to steal her **ver**y hot coffee. (Again, notice the compounding of several “ver” sounds in order to increase the chances of recall. All images and actions are large, vibrant and exaggerated.)
7. Entrance to agora: **zer** – a giant **z**ero is sword fighting with a “**X**erox” machine. (In this case, Xerox is being drawn upon for how it sounds rather than it’s actual letter. Rest assured that games like these needn’t cause confusion. You’re only using this process to get the material into long-term memory.)

As I’ve mentioned before, this technique works best if you come up with your own examples. I’d like to be able to say that it’s okay to model my mnemonic examples in the beginning, but the fact is that the sooner you get started creating your own, the soon you’ll reach German memorization mastery.

And the point here is to use Recall Rehearsal to get this material into long-term memory. Once you know the Magnetic Memory Method and have had

a very small amount of practice, memorizing a list like this should take no longer than five minutes based upon a Memory Palace that should also take only 5-10 minutes to build. If you're using the Magnetic Memory Method correctly, you'll always have a pool of Memory Palaces upon which to draw, so in many cases you'll be merely withdrawing them based on time and effort already spent.

Once you've memorized this list of prefixes, you now know by default that every other prefix you encounter will be separable.

Here is a sample list of prefixes attached to words so that you can see them in action:

**bekommen** – to receive

**besuchen** – to visit

**empfehlen** – to recommend

**empfinden** – to feel

**entlaufen** – to run away

**entschliesen** – to decide

**erschlagen** – to kill

**erwarten** – to expect

**gefallen** – to please

**gehören** – to belong to

**missachten** – to ignore

**misslingen** – to be unsuccessful

**vergessen** – to forget

**verstehen** – to understand

**zerreißen** – to tear to pieces

**zerschmettern** – to smash

The first thing to notice with these inseparable prefixes is that the stress is always on the stem. Another thing to notice is that some of the inseparable prefixes contain clues as to what the rest of the word might mean. “Ent” for

example, tends to have something to do with taking something away or removal, while “miss” functions much like “mis” does in English words. There are no fixed truths here, only trends. But these can be powerful trends to follow indeed as you continue to learn German.

Notice too that these prefixes truly are fixed. Regardless of the tense they appear in (present, past, present perfect, etc.) they will still appear at the beginning of the word. Thus:

Present – sie **besucht**.

Past – sie **besuchte**.

Present perfect – sie hat **besucht**.

Past perfect – sie hatte **besucht**.

Future – sie wird **besuchen**.

Future perfect – sie wird **besucht** haben.

As described earlier, I like to group words together and use a “bridging image” that to walk along the journey and serve as an additional memory aid along with all the others. Thus, you can create a Memory Palace just for words that start with **be-** and have each word at each stop along the journey involve that bridging figure. In this case, mine is Bethany from *Dogma* for **be-**.

What bridging figure can you come up with for each of these Inseparable Prefixes? It’s a great exercise to come up with more than one before settling on the bridging figure you’ll settle on to memorize all the words that start with these inseparable prefixes using the procedures discussed in detail in [\*How to Learn and Memorize German Vocabulary\*](#).

**be-** \_\_\_\_\_

**emp-** \_\_\_\_\_

**ent-** \_\_\_\_\_

**er-** \_\_\_\_\_

**miss-** \_\_\_\_\_

**ver-** \_\_\_\_\_

**zer-** \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorizing the Separable Prefixes

The separable prefixes (trennbar) are as follows:

**an-**

**auf-**

**aus-**

**bei-**

**fort-**

**mit-**

**nach-**

**vor-**

**weg-**

**zu-**

I will not include another example Memory Palace here because by now the process of how to memorize these prefixes should be clear. Once you have committed them to memory, whenever you recognize them, you'll know that they are separable and need to follow the rule that, when conjugated, they will appear at the end of the sentence.

For example, aufhören means to stop or to cease. Thus, in the sentence, "He ceases," the separable prefix will appear at the end of the sentence: "er hört auf."

However, unlike the inseparable prefixes, which will hold their place regardless of the tense, there are some changes in sentences with separable prefixes. Thus:

Present – er hört **auf**.

Past – er hörte **auf**.

Present perfect – er hat **aufgehört**.

Past perfect – er hatte **aufgehört**.

Future – er wird **aufhören**.

Future perfect – er wird **aufgehört haben**.

In principle, in the present perfect, past perfect, future and future perfect, the separable prefix appears before the **ge-** which tells us that at some level that the action referred to has taken place in the past. We'll talk about memorizing the tenses in the next chapter.

## Chapter Six: Example Memory Palace for Memorizing the Tenses

In learning German, we need to understand the following tenses:

Present tense

Past tense

Present perfect

Past perfect

Future

Future perfect

One thing that confuses many students of German is the fact that in German grammar itself, each of these tenses can be called by different names or refers to different states of time. It can be confusing even for people who have learned it.

For example, the German word for the present tense is *Präsens*, but you'll sometimes also see the word *Gegenwart*, which in German means "the present."

Then there is *Perfekt*, which means the past tense, whereas "the past," in German is *Vergangenheit*.

The question that inevitably arises is: do you memorize the German terminology for grammar or do you memorize representative examples of these principles in action linked to the English equivalent terms?

Ultimately, it's up to you, but at the beginning stages, I would suggest that you link English terminology with representative examples in German in a Memory Palace and later go back and memorize the terms in German. Your goal should be to get these principles into your speaking, writing, listening and reading practices as soon as possible so that you can understand what is going on. In fact, you may find that you do not need to come back and understand the German terms for its own grammar as you develop an intuitive understanding.

Again, the purpose of this book is to give you a few representative examples that get you started memorizing German grammar rules. There

are deeper complexities that you will discover in grammar books to which you'll be able to apply these techniques.

For now, in order to memorize these tenses and give yourself a Memory Palace “crib sheet” that you can apply to all situations, you'll need to think about exactly how many representative examples you'll want to store in the Memory Palace. If it is two per tense, then you'll want a Memory Palace with twelve stations. For example purposes, I'll demonstrate a six station Memory Palace with a tight economy of means that is designed to let me know how the tense works and show me an example that can be applied to nearly any sentence I might want to construct.

Again, it must be repeated that the purpose of all this is to generate a Recall Rehearsal process for getting this information into long-term memory and backing everything up with writing, reading, speaking and listening practice. The Magnetic Memory Method is an alternative to index cards, spaced-repetition software, one that helps you rely solely on the power of your imagination while increasing your powers of imagination and memory at the same time.

In the rest of this brief representative chapter, I'll be offering you some examples of memorizing rules that cover the present tense. By the end of the chapter, you'll be able to apply the technique to all of the tenses so that you can quickly memorize and recall their rules.

### **A Six Station Memory Palace**

Due to the nature of the phrases that we'll need to memorize, I recommended a Memory Palace that uses a combination of macro and micro stations. In other words, each room is going to deal with a single tense, but within that room you may want several stations available for use for memorizing representative phrases.

The Memory Palace in this example is an apartment in Berlin near Ostkreuz station in Friedrichshain. I highly recommend staying in this area if you can.

Following the principles of starting in a terminal station in order to avoid getting trapped and taking care not to cross my own path by imaginatively peering into each room rather than actually entering them, the macro stations in this Memory Palace are:



1. my room
2. the hallway nook
3. my roommate's room
4. the bathroom
5. the kitchen
6. the garden

Now let me show you the micro stations (again, these obey the principles of eliminating traps and path-crossing):

My room: bookcase/bed/desk/chair/bike

Hallway nook: coat rack/roommate's bike/shelving/poster

My roommate's room: bed/couch/desk/window/entertainment center

Bathroom: table with German monolingual dictionary/shelf for shaving stuff/toilet/mirror/sink/tub

Kitchen: fridge/stove/shelving/table/sink/washing machine/door

Garden: table/firepit/clothesline/fence

That's 30 stations in total, more than enough to memorize the key points about the German tenses.

Let's get started:

### **Present Tense – Regular Verbs**

My bedroom: If there's one time that German is simple, it's the present tense. Whereas in English we have three kinds of present tense (habitual/progressive/emphatic), German has just one.

In English, for example, we can say under the rubric of the present tense:

*I speak English* (habitual)

*I am speaking English* (progressive)

*I do speak English* (emphatic)

In German, all of this is covered by one simple statement:

*Ich spreche Englisch.* (In other words, this one statement can mean all of, I speak English, I am speaking English, I do speak English).

Since there's really nothing to memorize about this simple fact, we can move on to some of the more specific rules for the present tense in German.

Bookshelf: The first rule is that the word stems of regular verbs do not change when conjugated.

Stellen, for example (to put) has the stem "stell." This "stell" never changes even though the rest of the word does in conjugation:

Ich stelle

Du stellst

Er/sie/es stellt

Wir stellen

Ihr stellt

Wir stellen

The list of regular verbs is enormous, so you might want to dedicate Memory Palaces just to memorizing these, but for now we're concerned with the rule.

Thus, on the bookshelf, I see my friend Stephan "putting" sea shells in an arrangement that looks like a horse stall. There's no one-to-one correspondence between "stall" and "stell," but it's close enough. To get in the rule that this applies to regular verbs, Stephan is feeding a horse in the stall bran to keep him regular as he is nailing on a shoehorn that says "stellen" on it.

### **Present Tense – Irregular Verbs**

Bed: The second thing I want to remember is that some irregular verbs add an umlaut to the vowel in the present tense conjugation. Again, you may want to use Memory Palaces to memorize lists of irregular verbs to build your vocabulary in conjunction with the rule and make the first station in that Memory Palace the place that you remind yourself of that rule, but I find that having a rule-based Memory Palace works best for the Recall Rehearsal procedures that slide the information into long-term memory.

A typical example of one of these words is *stoßen*. This word means to punch or kick. The person who immediately comes to mind is martial artist Scott Sonnon. I see a punching bag with the word *stoßen* on it and see him throwing up an umlaut, i.e. the two dots that go over the vowel (¨) and punching it into the bag so that the word becomes *stöst*. “Du stöst! Er stöst!” he shouts as he punches.

If you wanted to add more examples to remind you and have prepared the Memory Palace stations needed to accommodate more examples, here are some irregular verbs that you could work with:

Einladen (ä) – to bake

Schlafen (ä) – to sleep

Schlagen (ä) – to hit

Waschen (ä) – to wash

For “schlagen,” I had a great deal of fun using my friend Tom Geldschläger (Tom schlägt), and I mention him because you may enjoy an interview he gave me from my website called [Tom Geldschläger On Memorizing Music](#). He has a different take on it than I do, but if you’re a musician and want some ideas from a pro, check this interview out.

### **Some Questions**

Some of the questions that inevitably arise in many different forms when I give a seemingly convenient example like this one about my friend Tom include:

What do I do if my visual and/or conceptual imagination is lacking?

What if your representative examples don’t work for me?

What if I don’t have a friend whose name so conveniently matches a grammatical principle?

In the first instance, please go back and reread the chapter on the main principles of the Magnetic Memory Method. It gives you several ideas for improving your visual imagination. In brief, a visual imagination is best developed by learning to draw, by looking at art, by building pools of famous actors/artists/sports celebrities/etc. and by actually practicing these methods. Don’t overthink the process. Getting started and keeping going

will teach you more than anything else and resources like Wikipedia will give you more than enough art to study along with lengthy databases of actors/singers/politicians and all the people you could ever hope to include in a Memory Palaces for the purposes of assisting your memorization and recall of German grammar rules.

Second, my representative examples are not designed to work for anyone else apart from me. I give them so that you can model the process. Many would-be Memorizers are unwilling to create their own associative-images and spend hours scouring the Internet for “mnemonic examples.” This is confusing activity with accomplishment. Your goal should be to learn how to create your own mnemonic, associative-imagery and then exaggerate it so that it creates memories that you cannot help but recall, even if you tried.

With respect to not having friends with German names to exploit in your Memory Palaces, here’s the best possible answer I can think of: If you’re serious about learning German, then it behooves you to not only make some friends by finding German-speaking tandem partners who want to learn English, but you should be studying the culture of German-speaking countries as well. In this way, you’ll build not only a pool of actors/authors and other celebrities in your mother tongue, but also those specific to the target-language.

In other words, there are no excuses and the solution to all problems is to build well-formed Memory Palaces, identify the information you want to memorize it, arrange it strategically, work on memorizing it and then practice recall.

Thus, from this point on, you are now equipped to move on to the next present tense issue, which are the modal auxiliaries. In my case, the general rules for this are memorized on my desk. Where will you memorize them?

## Chapter Seven: Example Memory Palace for Memorizing German Conjunctions

For this final example, let's focus on conjunction words that will help us build sentences. The most important thing to know is that there are many conjunctions (words that join together two clauses) and that many of them cause the order of the words in the two clauses to change order.

The conjunctions that don't change word order in the clauses when they are independent include und (and), aber (but) and denn (for/because). One example would be:

*Wir haben einen Picknick gemacht, **aber es war sehr kalt.*** (We had a picnic, but it was very cold.)

In both cases, the two initial verbs in the two clauses (haben and war, i.e. sein) retain the second position.

When it comes to conjunctions that affect word order, there are two kinds: those that invert the subject and the verb and those where the verb in the second clause is pushed to the end of the sentence.

The conjoining words that invert the subject and the verb include:

also (thus)

dann (then)

sonst (otherwise)

deshalb (therefore)

Conjoining words that push the verb in the second clause to the end of the sentence include:

als (when)

bevor (before)

bis (until)

seit/seitdem (since)

während (while)

These lists are not comprehensive, so you'll want to consult your preferred German grammar book in order to see the fullest possible lists.

For memorizing these types of conjunctions, I recommend two different Memory Palaces. For this example, I will show you an example of memorizing several phrases that help me remember the second type.

As always, I have started at the back of the Memory Palace in a terminal location and moved forward to prevent myself from getting trapped. I also make sure that I never cross my path in order to avoid confusing myself as I move throughout the Memory Palace. For a free video walk through of how to record your Memory Palaces journey into an Excel file, visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMPMuOyfke4>

Please take a moment to look at the other videos on my YouTube channel while you're there for more free additional tips and pointers regarding the use of Memory Palaces for storing foreign language grammar (and other stuff you might want to memorize).

To give you a few examples, let's look into a Memory Palace based upon Stong College, yet another building at York University:

Entrance

1. Classroom where I studied theory - *Sie las ein Buch, **als** ihre Mutter ins Zimmer kam.* (She read a book as her mother came into the room).

To remember this word order for *als*, I see a "lass" sitting on Al's shoulder (Al Pacino) reading as the professor comes into the room biting on the end of an arm of her reading glasses.

2. Classroom where I studied poetry - *Du sollst deiner Großmutter helfen, **bevor** du abreist.* (You should help your grandmother before you leave).

To remember *bevor*, I see my grandmother helping a beaver into a diner (i.e. *deiner*) while I eat a chicken *abreist* (i.e. chicken breast) from a plate. I'm almost at the end of eating it to stress that the verb comes at the end.

3. Staircase: - *Ich habe viel lernen müssen, **während** ich studierte.* (I had to learn a lot while I studied).

To memorize this, I see the back-end of a werewolf (were + end = während) eating up my books. He's pushing me as I study to help remember that the

verb comes at the end of the sentence.

I hope that these examples have helped you the see the possibilities and options you have for creating images along dedicated Memory Palace journeys using the principle of word division and bridging figures. If you have any questions, you can contact me at any time. My email is [learnandmemorize@zoho.com](mailto:learnandmemorize@zoho.com) and I endeavor to answer all questions normally within 24-72 hours.

## **Chapter Eight: Building Focus and Overcoming Procrastination For The Achievement Of Fluency.**

Students of German often complain that they cannot focus, or haven't the will power to spend the necessary time on grammar acquisition. To address this problem, here are a few points about learning and concentration that I have picked up over the years. A more sophisticated understanding of these concepts will make for better Memory Palace experiences for yourself and for the people with whom you discuss the Magnetic Memory Method.

One way of thinking about learning and memorization is to see them as two different skills. However, learning a language is essentially memorizing its words so that you can use them with ease whenever you like.

Fundamentally, then, all learning is memorization and all memorization is learning. The only question lurking in between, particularly with respect to language learning, is: do you have to understand what you've remembered in order to remember it?

The answer, of course, is no. Many times I have learned a word and forgotten what it meant. As discussed in a previous chapter, this is why compounding images and rehearsal or revisiting the palaces frequently is so important.

However, there are some barriers that prevent us from taking these important steps. One of the biggest impediments is procrastination. We all procrastinate, and this is just something for the sake of sanity that we have to admit to ourselves. Since we all do it, there is really nothing to be gained from punishing ourselves or feeling bad about our procrastination. The fact of the matter is, that sitting around feeling bad for doing nothing inevitably leads to more sitting around doing nothing. It makes the problem worse.

The author Tim Ferris, who made his claim to fame with books such as *The 4 Hour Workweek* and *The Four Hour Body* discusses a very interesting method for dealing with procrastination. He allows it to happen. He knows it is inevitable, so he plans for it. One of the best quotes I've heard from him is that we should "budget for human nature instead of trying to conquer it."



Why am I telling you this? The reason is because in order to develop a substantial grammar in German, you are going to need to spend some time. Although it really will take you only between 1-5 hours to build a full set of alphabetical palaces, filling them with German grammar is another matter. When learning a second language, depending on your goals, you can literally spend a lifetime still developing your Memory Palaces. That said, I have had people regularly tell me about learning 100 words in under an hour. As with any skill, concentrated focus and dedicated practice wins every time.

Despite my own achievements, when I sit down to read a sophisticated novel in German, I need to put in some time extending my Memory Palaces and inserting new words based upon a developed understanding of the grammar. I do this before reading, during reading and after reading. Flipping through the book I always find words and grammar issues I don't know, and so make a point of jotting these down, looking them up and memorizing them. I am always pleased when I come across these grammar issues in action again and know what they mean. It is very rewarding.

When I do encounter principles I don't know or even recognize, I pause only to keep lists for future memorization sessions. However, I try to practice what Dan Sullivan calls "speed of implementation." The sooner I place the new grammar principles I've learned within the organizational model of my Memory Palace after encountering them in my reading, the better I remember the context in which I have learned them. Memorization from grammar books alone is great, but remembering the principles when encountered in normal prose has a special effect precisely because you have the aura of context to draw upon.

Returning to procrastination, the point is that we mustn't punish ourselves for skipping a few days here and there. As Ferris suggests, we will do much better over the long haul if we routinely schedule the days we miss. Intentional procrastination can even be inspirational because as you are working, you know that some vegetation-time on the couch is just waiting for you enjoy.

For more valuable tips on breaking the procrastination habit, join the Magnetic Memory mailing list by visiting [magneticmemorymethod.com](http://magneticmemorymethod.com). A wealth of free material awaits you.

## Chapter Nine: How to Use Relaxation for German Grammar Memorization

A friend of mine suggested that I call this chapter “Relax to Rememberize,” but I thought it rather too cute. “Remembercize” was another suggestions – and I ultimately cannot disagree with the connotation that remembering is a kind of exercise.

Harry Lorayne has pointed out that one of the reasons why we can’t remember the names of people we meet is because we haven’t paid attention to them in the first place. I believe that tension, stress and not being present gets in the way of the attention needed for Memory Palace work.

The number one reason you want to be relaxed when you learn grammar is because it will *train you to be relaxed when you are trying to recall the words in normal conversation*. Nothing is worse than knowing a word, but being unable to recall it due to nervousness or feeling like you are on the spot.

To that end, I want to share with you some principles of breathing that you can use while memorizing grammar. Since so many of us experience confidence issues around our memories, we need relaxation in order to overcome such boundaries. Fortunately, this is easily done.

The two main strategies I use have wider applications than memory work alone. I recommend using them every day for general health as well.

I know of nine breathing techniques overall, one of which I will discuss in this chapter. It is called Pendulum breathing. The second involves progressive muscle relaxation.

### **Pendulum Breathing**

If you’ve ever seen a pendulum, then you know that there is an interesting moment at the end of each cycle where the pendulum seems to hang for an instant and then move a little bit more in the first direction before falling back the other way. It does this back and forth. Pendulum Breathing works much in this way.

To start with Pendulum breathing, fill your lungs normally, and then pause slightly. Instead of exhaling, breathe in a little bit more. Let the breath out naturally and pause. Instead of inhaling, exhale out a little bit more. By circulating your breath in this way, you are “swinging” the air like a pendulum. This practice will reduce stress in your overall life once you are used to doing it, but if you do nothing else, implement pendulum breathing in your memory work. This method of breathing makes Memory Palace construction and the generation of images and associations so much easier because you are putting yourself in a kind of oxygenated dream state.

At first, it may seem difficult to concentrate on both your breathing and doing imaginative Memory Palace building. In some ways, it is like being a drummer who is creating three or four different patterns, one for each limb. With practice, the ability will come to you. The best part is that this form of practice is incredibly relaxing.

### **Progressive Muscle Relaxation**

Progressive Muscle Relaxation is relatively well-known, and yet so few people practice it. The work is simple: sit on a chair or lie down on a bed or the floor. Next:

- 1) Point your toes upward and hold.
- 2) Point your toes towards the wall and hold.
- 3) Flex your calves.
- 4) Flex your thighs.
- 5) Flex your buttocks.
- 6) Flex your stomach muscles, lower back muscles, chest and shoulders (all core muscles).
- 7) Flex your hands, forearms and upper arms.
- 8) Flex your neck, your cheeks and the muscles surrounding your eyes.

Practice Pendulum Breathing as you do this, or at least work to conjoin the flexing movements with your breathing.

Once you have achieved a profound state of relaxation and all of your 28 memory palaces have been built, sit with a dictionary or a list of the specific

words you wish to remember and their meanings. If isolating the terms helps you, prepare an index card for each word.

As mentioned in a previous chapter, I recommend that you keep an Excel file for the purposes of testing. To do this, without looking at your list, you will write down all of the grammar principles you have memorized and only then compare them against the original list.

Otherwise, avoid rote learning at all costs. Let your Memory Palace skills do the work. Compound your images when testing routines reveal weaknesses. Just as you would relax to remember, relax to test and relax to compound as well.

Again, realize that you want to practice relaxation during memorization so that you condition yourself to be relaxed when accessing the words later during conversations with others.

## Conclusion

There are many more German grammar rules to learn and memorize as you continue your adventures in this wonderful language. These include learning indefinite quantifiers, word order in different kinds of statements, plurals, passive voice in all the tenses and so forth. *How to Learn and Memorize German Grammar* has given you the needed tools to adapt the Magnetic Memory Method to memorizing and recalling the representative examples you'll need to build familiarity with the rules and recognize them when you encounter them again as part of your reading, writing, speaking and listening practice.

Because a solid understanding of how Memory Palaces work is critical to your success with this form of learning, let's conclude with some review and expand on some of the most important Memory Palace concepts as we go through what you've learned.

The first step is to create a journey, but not just any old journey if you're using the Magnetic Memory Method. Instead of simply creating a helter skelter path throughout the building you are using, obey these four principles to create effective Memory Palace journeys that will be fun to use:

- 1) Don't trap yourself
- 2) Don't cross your own path
- 3) Peer versus enter
- 4) Select your "stations" with care

Let's review each of these principles individually.

1) **Don't Trap Yourself.** Over the years, I have found that many people I've worked with wind up trapping themselves in their Memory Palaces. This is because they start anywhere in their home at random instead of thinking the journey through.

For example, I'm presently writing in the kitchen, but this would not be an appropriate starting point in this Memory Palace because in order to have more than two or three stops along my journey, I would have to move deeper into the Memory Palace. On the contrary, I want to move outward,

towards the exit so that I can get outside and add new stations or stopping points along the journey at any point I wish.

We always want to be able to add more stations so it is very important not to trap ourselves in a Memory Palace. Although a subtle point for true Memory Palace aficionados, we also want to avoid “Memory Palace Claustrophobia.” This condition also describes the feeling that there isn’t enough space for the images we have created and left at a particular station.

I would be saying this tongue in cheek, but I have actually heard from one of my readers that this is a problem for her, and anything that causes you to concentrate on matters other than the information you’ve stored in your Memory Palaces needs to be avoided. Not trapping yourself along any point of the journey is a good place to start.

**2) Don’t Cross Your Own Path.** This point is strongly related to the point about not trapping yourself. If you have a computer nearby, I discuss this at length in a free video on YouTube I created to help a reader who sent me a map of one of his Memory Palaces:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ6j5d7Dvgo>

(If you’re reading the print edition, or listening to the audio edition of this book and don’t feel like typing this address, just search for “Metivier youtube avoid memory palace confusion” and it should pop up).

On the map, he shows how in order to move through his house, he felt he had to cross his own path. However, as you’ll see, based on the drawing he supplied, we found a solution together.

You can easily follow these two principles by creating your first Memory Palace station in a “terminal location.” This term indicates the innermost room in your home that you can move outward from throughout the dwelling towards a door leading outside. Main bedrooms situated in the back corner of a home usually fit this description. In the first home in which I created a Memory Palace, my office was the terminal location.

The path I created was as follows:

1. My office
2. Laundry room
3. Bathroom

4. Bedroom
5. Wife's office
6. Living room
7. Hallway
8. Kitchen

As you can see, it was possible for me to mentally move through the Memory Palace in a linear line without crossing my own path or trapping myself. I also did not need to pass through walls like a ghost, nor did I simply jump through the Kitchen window out onto the street. We avoid movements like this because such actions require mental energy. Unnatural elements create “blips” in your journeys, instances that you will not want to deal with when you use your Memory Palaces later to recall information.

I should point out that you don't have to follow my advice here. I'm making this recommendation based on years of experience of my own and countless interactions with readers of my books who confirm that passing through walls is the equivalent of crossing your own path because it distracts from the primary goal, which is finding information you've memorized.

However, it is important to experiment on your own. It is impossible to rule out that such unnatural strategies won't work for some people. I am providing tried and tested guidelines, but ultimately each person needs to adapt the principles to their own use. But if in doubt, move through your Memory Palaces in the same way you would if you were to walk through them along a linear path along which you do not cross your own tracks.

**3. Peer versus Enter.** Of course, if you're moving from room to room, how on earth do you avoid not crossing your own path, especially if you want to use multiple places inside of each room to store memorized information?

The problem is easily solved. Instead of entering any room, simply imagine that you are peering into it. If you identify and create multiple micro-stations within the room, instead of walking from station to station, simply cast your eyes (in your imagination) around the room. There should be no need to enter it.

The important point is that you want to make sure that you circle the room clockwise or counter-clockwise depending on the linear progression of the rest of your journey.

**4. Select your “stations” with care.** Instead of calling each location within a Memory Palace “loci” (Memory Palaces are already locations), I call these stops along the journey “stations.” And these stops literally are stations where you leave the information you’ve encoded using the other strategies discussed in this book.

There are at least three kinds of stations and a person using the Magnetic Memory Method could certainly identify more. These are:

- \* Macro stations
- \* Micro stations
- \* Virtual stations

A macro station is an entire room. If you use your bedroom to store one piece of information, then that is technically a macro station. However, if you use the dresser, the window sill, the left bedside table, the bed, the right bedside table, the closet and then the bookshelf before exiting the room, then these are all micro stations within the room and the room itself no longer technically qualifies as a station at all. It’s simply part of the route where you pause and peer in the door to take a journey with the eyes in your mind around the room.

“Micro” and “macro” stations are not terms I use often, but I have created them for this chapter in order to highlight the difference between using an entire room as a station and the elements within a room that can be used as stations (beds, bookshelves, etc). If you dislike being overburdened with terminology, then you can think of a station as a station regardless of whether it is an entire room or not.

There will be a section devoted to virtual Memory Palace stations and elements, but for now, these are invented pieces of furniture, nooks and crannies that do not actually exist in the location upon which the Memory Palace is based. These are to be used caution, even for advanced memorizers because (not to be a broken record), everything you introduce into the form of your Memory Palace journey that is not natural to it will distract you from proceeding from station to station quickly and rapidly. These stations will more than enough strange and wonderful features that to which you will be paying attention when the time comes to memorize and recall information.



Here's how to get started building your first Memory Palace:

1. Identify a location with which you are deeply familiar. At this point, you should use a building to which you currently hold some connection. Again, it doesn't have to be your home. It could be your office or your school. However, avoid things like large campuses. Use a relatively contained structure with a number of rooms connected by hallways and/or staircases.
2. Find 10 "stations" within the location, which is now officially a Memory Palace in your mind. You will use these stations as "drop-off" points for the information you want to memorize. A station can be an entire room or just part of a room. I recommend starting with entire rooms at the beginning of your experimentation with the Magnetic Memory Method, but if you feel ready to "peer" into rooms by giving them multiple stations, by all means do so. You will learn about your thresholds and limits as you explore the Magnetic Memory Method. And as you explore, your mental abilities will extend.
3. It helps to draw out the floorplan of the Memory Palace on blank paper or graph paper. Again, visit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ6j5d7Dvgo>

or search for "Metivier youtube memory palace confusion" and you'll find a video depicting exactly how one of my readers has drawn out his Memory Palace and how to troubleshoot a small problem he had.

As an alternative to drawing out your Memory Palaces, you can also create a top-down Excel file. I usually do both, but it depends on the purpose for which the Memory Palace is intended.

To see an example of how you can use an Excel file to keep record of what you've done in a Memory Palace (including the Memory Palace itself), visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMPMuOyfke4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMPMuOyfke4)

(or search Google using the keywords "Metivier YouTube Excel file Memory Palace").

Whether you draw or use an Excel file (or both) number each station in the Memory Palace in sequential order. Ensure that your journey starts in a terminal location (i.e. you've eliminated the possibility of trapping yourself

within the Memory Palace), and make sure that your journey moves in a linear line without crossing your own path.

4. Do all of these activities in a state of relaxation. There is an entire chapter in this book on the role of relaxation in imaginative Memory Palace work (which is really a kind of play) and you will benefit greatly by engaging in just about everything you do in life from a position of relaxation.

5. Test your Memory Palaces. Mentally wander through them and make sure that you can move from station to station without spending undue focus on the journey. The journey should be natural and closely resemble how you would move from station to station if you were really going to walk through the building.

6. Amplify your Memory Palaces. This means that you take a small amount of time to concentrate on your journey to make sure that it is vivid in your mind. A lot of people skip this step, assuming that because they are so familiar with the locations upon which they base their Memory Palaces that this isn't important. In many cases this is true. However, personal experimentation and the feedback I've received from those experiencing monumental success from the Magnetic Memory Method demonstrates that taking just a few seconds to mentally walk through the Memory Palace and concentrate on the colors, the lighting and even the materials along the way greatly enhances the Magnetic "stickiness" of the Memory Palace. Personal experience will undoubtedly demonstrate that this is true for you too.

One very interesting reader and a participant in my video course, "How to Learn and Memorize the Grammar of Any Language," shared the experience that her Memory Palaces were intensely vivified by walking through the Memory Palace and running her hands along the walls. I've experimented with this myself and it works gangbusters. Depending on the layout of your house, you can do this with your eyes closed for extra imaginative benefit.

Once you've gone through this procedure once, you can do it again and again. And because you now understand some of the basic principles behind truly effective Memory Palaces, you can be certain that the information you store in them will be easy to access each and every time you stroll through a Memory Palace in your mind.

### **More On Gathering Memory Palaces**

One of the many elements distinguishing the Magnetic Memory Method from other trainings is my emphasis on creating lots of Memory Palaces and then organizing them in a particular way.

The classical method of organizing multiple Memory Palaces involves a “Grand Central Station” Memory Palace. Imagine, for example, using your high school. In effect, high schools are a collection of rooms connected by corridors. When used as a central station for your Memory Palaces, instead of mentally walking into individual classrooms, these doors would lead into different houses you’ve lived in, other schools you’ve attended, shopping malls, etc.

I know that this option works very well for some people, but I’ve found that it confuses the majority. You have to remember, for example, which door leads to which Memory Palace, and since there are so many doors and so many Memory Palaces, people both new to the game and filled with experience can get confused.

Ultimately, there is little to be gained from this process of linking together Memory Palaces based on real locations using an invented Central Station because, as you’ll recall, a fundamental rule of the Magnetic Memory Method is that we must reduce or eliminate everything that costs mental energy. When it comes to creating Memory Palace journeys and maintaining our networks of Palaces, using an invented gathering place filled with a variety of doors will certainly cause confusion for many people. This problem and its solution can all be summed up in one simple phrase:

**The Less You Have To Remember, The More You Can Remember**

It’s a paradoxical equation, but it’s a fundamental premise of mnemonics that is never discussed. The architecture and principles we are building do have a learning curve, but once the Magnetic Memory Method becomes second nature, it is like a very light software code that floats in the background. But plug it up with too many invented things and then you have to essentially *rebuild* the Central Station every time you visit it.

*The Better Method*

If we’re not going to use a “Grand Central Station” to connect our Memory Palaces, what other options have we? Undoubtedly, there are countless

ways, but I have found that using the alphabet as a structural connector works the best.

First, the alphabet is not a building, and yet it is still a structure. It begins at A and proceeds to Z in a regular and predictable manner. If you find yourself at D, it's easy to figure out that C precedes this letter and E follows. If your mind magnetically zooms to Y, then it is not an enormous feat of mental energy to see that X and Z are its closest neighbors.

But due to the nature of how we are going to assign Memory Palaces to different letters, we will never have an issue finding them because each Memory Palace will be alphabetically labeled.

Construction begins, then, by seeking out twenty-six Memory Palaces, each of which beginning with a unique letter of the alphabet. For example, when I first created a 26-letter Memory Palace system, I used shopping malls, my high schools, but mostly the homes of friends. I now have multiple Memory Palace systems (akin to alphabet keys on a chain that are themselves alphabetically arranged according to subject) and here is a representative example that you can use to start thinking about and generating a network of your own:

- A: Aberdeen Mall
- B: Brock High School
- C: Clark's house
- D: Dawn's house
- E: Eric's house
- F: Frank's apartment
- G: The Garage (concert hall)
- H: Heather's house
- I: Ian's house
- J: Jessica's house
- K: Kane's house
- L: Liam's house
- M: Paramount movie theatre

N: Northern Face store

O: Owen's house

P: Paul's house

Q: Quinn's house

R: Ryan's house

S: Simon's house

T: Trevor's house

U: Uncle Lloyd's house

V: Valleyview High School

W: Walter's house

X: Library

Y: Yolando's house

Z: Zoltan's movie theatre

Let me offer a few notes on the choices here. Not all of these names represent exactly what they suggest. For example, Zoltan didn't own a movie theatre. He was the contracted janitor who hired me to work there from 12-5 a.m. while I was a young university student struggling to pay the bills while I took the only undergraduate course I could afford that year (thanks Zoltan!)

Likewise, "Yolando" is the nickname of a friend whose real name actually starts with an 'E.' You'll also note that "Paramount movie theatre" is used as the "M" Memory Palace. Stretching things in this way is to be avoided, but not denied. This is because the mind will naturally bring you ideas, especially when you build your Memory Palace network in a state of relaxation. It's important not to resist unless you feel that the association is too far out of whack and that you'll have to expend energy memorizing it. As mentioned several times already in this book, unnecessary expenditures of mental energy are to be avoided at all costs.

At this point, you may be thinking that the Magnetic Memory Method is a huge investment of mental energy just to get started.

Not so. It will take you between 2-5 hours to get set up and using the full powers of your imagination to hold, maintain and use a system of Memory Palaces. If you have any doubts about their power, I encourage you to read this article by a woman named Amanda Markham in Australia who used the Magnetic Memory Method to memorize 200 words of Arrernte in just 10 days:

<http://anthroyogini.wordpress.com/2013/11/18/learning-an-aboriginal-language-a-quick-dirty-guide-to-learning-grammar/>

If you're reading the print edition or listening to the audio edition of this book, you can also simply Google the keywords: "learning an aboriginal language quick and dirty guide."

What I like about Amanda's article is that she includes examples of her Excel files, which allows you to see how someone has used them to achieve a memorization miracle. Naturally, she has followed the key principles we've talked about so far, including not trapping herself within her Memory Palaces and not crossing her own path.

All of what she says applies to memorizing German grammar.

### **Where to find Memory Palaces**

We've already touched on the use of living spaces and work places for building and developing Memory Palaces. However, I'm often asked for more ideas and my answer to the question boils down to the following:

Memory Palaces are surprisingly easy to discover. Although you may not be a person like myself who has moved from city to city and moved several times within each city while attending multiple schools and working all manner of odd jobs during my younger years, I'll bet that you've lived in more than one house or apartment.

Assuming you have friends and family, you've also visited countless homes of other people. Your personal history is likely also rife with movie theatres, libraries, museums and if you can think in a structured manner about outside locations, there are also parks, forest trails and neighborhood walks at your command.

Wherever possible, it's good to take a walk around locations that you will use as Memory Palaces to amplify your memory. For example, if you can

visit an old school, you won't necessarily improve your memory of the structure, but you'll make the location more vivid – and this means that it will be more Magnetic.

Now that you've learned about Memory Palaces, the next major step is to always keep one simple fact in mind: every place you visit can potentially become a new Memory Palace. You can deliberately focus on the location by paying attention to it in a completely new way, an intentional way that will make their layout even more memorable.

If revisiting locations isn't possible, you can look at old photographs, or in some cases, use Google Earth or Google Maps. In the case of public places, you can often search "blueprints" or "floor plans" and see representations of locations ranging from public libraries to shopping malls to casinos. In fact, I was given this idea by someone who wanted to use a casino he'd once visited and searched the Internet for a floor plan to help reconstitute his memory of the layout.

There are endless ways to revisit locations, and again, keep in mind that if your past happens to be limited, you can always strike out into the future by visiting new locations with a prospector's eye. There is truly no end to the Memory Palaces you can build.

Once you've compiled a list of candidate locations, I recommend filling out the Magnetic Memory Worksheets. These can be downloaded here:

<http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com/free-magnetic-memory-worksheets/>

It should take you only an hour or two to complete them. When you've done so, you'll have a 26-Memory Palace network with ten stations in each Memory Palace. Because you are following the principles of not trapping yourself and not crossing your own path in these Memory Palaces, you'll be able to add new stations to individual Memory Palaces later. If you're not using the special, Telesynoptic Memory Palace technique taught in other books I've written (this technique is actually more appropriate to memorizing poetry so please forget I mentioned them unless you're truly interested in the next level in Memory Palace technology), you can also assign more than one Memory Palace to each letter of the alphabet. For example, you could have:

A1

A2

A3

B1

B2

B3

B4

This strategy can be especially handy when using Memory Palaces to acquire the massive amounts of foreign language grammar if you seek help in that area for learning and memorizing German grammar. The *Magnetic Memory Method* is perfectly suited for that.

In sum, the building and development of Memory Palaces takes only a small amount of time and effort. The next step is learning how to fill the Memory Palaces you've prepared with the information you want to memorize. This could be anything, ranging from facts, lists of historical figures, foreign language grammar or names and faces.

As a final suggestion, as you are filling out the Magnetic Memory Worksheets, concentrate on the journey and make it as vivid as possible. You can literally close your eyes and pretend that you are "turning up the volume" on the Memory Palace. You can try this in the room you are currently in, reconstructing it in your mind and then making the layout bright, vivid and pumping with energy. It should almost be as if you're casting some kind of spell or attempting to manipulate reality like Neo in *The Matrix*. And manipulating reality you are.

Next time you are out for a walk, shopping or just wandering around the house, consider the hundreds of locations you can use to build and extend Memory Palaces. The more we pay attention to our surroundings, the more material we have to work with. As well, take every opportunity to visit places you've previously lived or gone to school. Revitalizing your familiarity with the locations you use to build your Memory Palaces is not entirely necessary, but at the very least, you should perform a mental walkthrough to ensure that you have enough material for at least the first 10 stations and ideally many more.



In addition, utilize the power of your imaginations and the images it brings you. Harness the power of coincidences such as those I related in the examples given in this book. Make sure to remember the bicycle metaphor for memory and suit the principles to your own needs by making adjustments to the system taught in this book. You should never be afraid to play around, amplify and use absurdities. Test yourself and compound regularly or when necessary. And always, always relax when doing memory work.

You should also spend time thinking about the kinds of poems you would like to learn or need to know. You should analyze how you can group different poems together and develop your poetry grammar based on your areas of interest and goals. You will see many more connections by doing this.

It goes without saying that you should recite the poetry you've memorized as often as you can and practice Memory Palace recall while reciting for friends or the public. This means searching for the poems using a specific strategy (mentally walking through your Memory Palaces), rather than casting a hook and hoping a line of poetry swims by and bites.

Finally, teach others what you have learned about memorization skills. Talk about how you built your Memory Palaces, the techniques of location, imagery and activity. Give your friends and colleagues examples of how you've memorized specific lines. Teaching others is one of the best ways to compound information that we've learned and it allows us to see other possibilities and new techniques we may have missed.

I wish you a lot of fun with these techniques and great progress with your poetry endeavors. I would be pleased if you [contacted](#) me to let me know how you've done. If this book has helped you, please leave a review on Amazon so that others can also find their way to these skills. Remember: the more we learn, the more we *can* learn. The same is true with memory. The more you remember, the more you have learned. And learning and memorizing German grammar is a special achievement indeed.

## **Further Resources For Memory & Memorization Techniques**

All of the following audio recordings are absolutely free:

[Tap the Mind Of A 10-Year Old Memory Palace Master](#)

[Memory Training Consumer Awareness Guide](#)

[David Mansaray on Passion, Polyglots and Positivity](#)

[Dr. Jim Samuels Talks About How to Reduce Stress With Mnemonics](#)

[The Ultimate Language Learning Secret \(Special Free Book Giveaway\)](#)

## About the Author

Anthony Metivier completed his BA and MA in English Literature at York University in Toronto, Canada. He earned a second MA in Media and Communications from The European Graduate School in Switzerland while completing a PhD in Humanities, also from York. As the author of scholarly articles, fiction and poetry, he has taught Film Studies in Canada, the United States and Germany. He plays the electric bass and is the author of the novel [\*Lucas Parks and the Download of Doom\*](#) and [\*The Ultimate Language Learning Secret\*](#).

Be sure to visit <http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com> for access to the free Magnetic Memory Method Podcast where you'll hear interviews with memory experts like Jim Samuels and Harry Lorayne and language learning giants like Luca Lampariello, David Mansaray and Sam Gendreau. You'll also find Anthony Metivier's amazing "Memory Training Consumer Awareness Guide" and much, much more!

Finally, if you're currently attending school, please be sure to watch the free, one-hour webinar called [Memory Secrets of an A+ Student](#).

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Last Chance!

I have created Magnetic Memory Worksheets that go along with this book. In order to receive them, go to:

<http://www.magneticmemorymethod.com/free-magnetic-memory-worksheets/>

As a reader of this book, you'll also receive a *complimentary* volume of the prestigious Magnetic Memory Newsletter and the chance to subscribe to the newsletter – while it's still free . Subscribe now and get the only information that will keep your memory ***magnetic*** for years to come. When you subscribe, you'll also get a free 45-minute interview I conducted with world memory expert Harry Lorayne!