

Foreign Vocabulary

In this video I'm going to show you how can use image association for vocabulary to remember foreign language words. Now, these are particularly interesting and fairly easy to do once you get in the habit of doing them. I was doing them for a thirty day trial where I was doing 50 words that I had to memorize every single day. And I found that when I got into the habit of regularly doing it, as you would if you were taking a language based class or you were trying to study a language, then you can usually get it down so that you only have to spend about 20 or 30 seconds per image association. So it can be quite quick and you can actually do it when you're reading the newspaper or even in a conversation if someone brings up a new word that you want to remember.

So the technique is fairly simple and I'm going to walk through how you can use it on three different vocabulary words. So the first word I've got here is the French word *feuille* and its translation is a leaf. So *feuille* and leaf. Now, *feuille* is a little bit difficult because it's kind of hard to think of well ok, how do I visualize that. How do I create an image association between those two ideas? So the key I use is the sounds like method. Where you use sounds like to get the closest word you can easily visualize from the target word. So *feuille* for me is sort of similar to the English word *fay*. And *fay* is sort of like magical creatures of the forest. So that's how I remember that. And leaf is very easily visualizable. Noun words are very easy to use this on because the target word or the definition word is usually very easy to visualize. So I've got *feuille* which translates to *fay* in my sounds like method, and leaf which become a leaf.

Then the only step I have to do after that is create a mental link which creates an exaggerated connection, exaggerated visual connection. If you haven't practiced this, go to the videos on the chain method and you can learn about this technique.

Create an exaggerated visual association between *fay* and leaf. So I'm imagining a fairy in the forest that is rolling around in a huge, huge pile of leaves. So that is my visual association. So next time I think I see *feuille*, I'm saying it in my head *feuille* and I say ok, that's sort of like *fay* and then I imagine again my scene and I go to leaf.

Next one I'm going to give an example is *mignon* which is another word in French and it means cute. Now this is a little bit more difficult because not only is *mignon* very difficult to visualize, well what does that look like. But also cute is not a noun. There's no real image for cute. So what I can do is this time use sounds like for *mignon*. And this time I'm going to use *minion*, so like an evil henchman. A *minion*, and that's going to be my sounds like word. But for cute because it's an adjective, and it's not really as easy to visualize, then I'm going to create a symbol for that. And my symbol for that is going to be a puppy that is just you know huge eyes and is just so adorable and like ridiculously cute. And then all I need to do is associate my symbol which is the really cute puppy with my sounds like translation which was *minion*. So *mignon*: *minion*; cute: cute puppy.

And my idea is that I have this big evil ogre like minion and he's petting this adorable puppy, and he's playing with the puppies. And there's not just one puppy, there's a thousand puppies and they're all around him and he's frolicking in a meadow playing with these puppies. So that's my association between mignon and cute.

We'll do one more example and this is a little bit more difficult and it's again from the French word. Sorry if you're learning other languages, but most of my expertise comes from learning French. And the word is *cependant* and it means however. Now, this is particularly difficult, not only because *cependant* is difficult to think of a sounds like word. It's fairly long and it has a lot of sounds that are not familiar in English. But also however is not a word that you can visualize. It's an element of sentences, but what does however look like? It doesn't look like anything. So the way I've done this again is to use sounds like but not just on the French word, but also on the target definition word. So the definition in English, I'm also using sounds like to come up with the next word that is the most similar visually to that word by sounds like, but is also easy to visualize.

So *cependant* I came up with, the closest thing I could come up with was C pendant. So it's a pendant like a necklace and it is shaped like a very large capital letter C. so that's my sounds like for *cependant*. And for however I came up with howitzer. So howitzer is a large kind of cannon. And howitzer to me sounds very similar to however. So now I need to create a connection between the C pendant and a howitzer. So I'm imagining this giant howitzer and it's flying, shooting not like trajectories, not bullets, it's shooting these large pendants on this necklace, and it's firing them off into the enemies.

So that's another example of a little bit more difficult example how you can use this to remember vocabulary. So good luck with this technique, and I'll see you on the other side.