

**הַנְּסִתְרֹת לַה' אֶלְקִינוּ – Can you finish that quote...?
Memorization as a Requirement of Torah Learning”**

דברים פרק ל': יא:יב

כִּי הַמְצִינָה הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה הַיּוֹם לֹא-נִפְלֶאת הוּא מִמֶּךָ וְלֹא רְחֹקָה הוּא:

Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach.

לֹא בַשָּׁמַיִם הִוא לְאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָנוּ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְיִקְחֶהָ לָנוּ וְיִשְׁמַעֵנוּ אֹתָהּ וְנַעֲשֶׂנָּה:

It is not in the heavens, that you should say, “Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?”

וְלֹא-מֵעֵבֶר לַיָּם הִוא לְאמֹר מִי יַעֲבֹר-לָנוּ אֶל-עֵבֶר הַיָּם וְיִקְחֶהָ לָנוּ וְיִשְׁמַעֵנוּ אֹתָהּ וְנַעֲשֶׂנָּה:

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?”

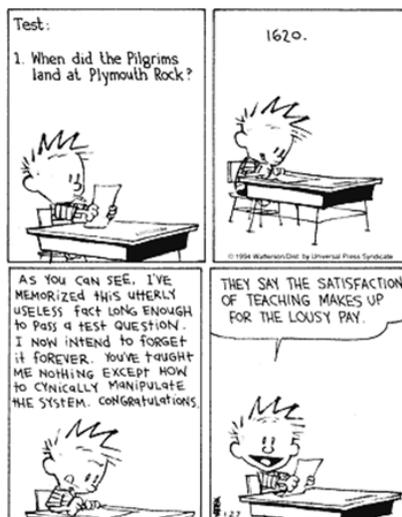


Speed Numbers Event

9 6 4 7 7 9 9 7 4 7 0 8 0 6 4 2 6 0 9 4	Row 1
8 6 7 6 4 3 8 1 8 2 7 9 4 3 9 6 4 3 1 4	Row 2
0 0 9 3 9 5 3 6 1 6 7 9 2 3 7 8 3 3 0 3	Row 3
7 6 1 5 5 8 1 2 1 5 3 1 0 5 9 8 5 2 5 2	Row 4
7 0 4 2 7 2 8 4 0 0 3 1 8 8 4 8 7 5 5 5	Row 5
6 0 7 9 7 4 0 2 1 4 0 7 9 8 8 1 2 0 1 8	Row 6
0 1 0 2 9 0 8 9 0 6 5 0 3 2 2 6 2 9 0 8	Row 7
3 8 6 1 0 4 9 9 4 8 1 2 8 7 6 5 7 7 2 5	Row 8
1 2 1 5 3 0 6 5 8 3 4 3 4 0 4 9 1 2 4 0	Row 9
2 2 2 5 1 3 6 3 1 1 5 1 1 7 3 5 2 5 8 2	Row 10
7 2 4 7 3 0 7 9 8 0 9 3 7 2 1 6 1 5 9 0	Row 11
5 2 4 0 5 1 0 2 4 9 2 0 3 5 2 6 5 2 5 2	Row 12
7 9 9 3 1 7 5 8 2 1 6 1 6 9 1 9 4 4 9 9	Row 13
6 6 3 7 8 6 7 5 0 3 2 4 4 7 5 1 4 5 6 5	Row 14
9 1 9 9 1 5 2 9 7 1 5 6 5 5 1 6 6 4 4 8	Row 15
5 2 6 7 1 4 1 8 2 7 5 8 5 4 4 6 9 4 2 0	Row 16
9 1 8 6 8 8 7 3 0 5 8 9 1 3 9 8 7 9 3 3	Row 17
7 9 3 0 4 7 8 0 8 8 8 3 1 8 3 9 7 5 3 2	Row 18
4 4 9 7 3 5 3 8 5 2 9 2 3 7 0 5 2 4 3 8	Row 19
2 9 5 8 6 7 4 5 6 8 9 9 2 5 8 2 4 5 9 4	Row 20
2 3 5 5 4 7 9 1 4 4 9 9 4 0 3 0 7 9 7 5	Row 21
2 3 1 5 9 3 1 2 6 2 3 8 3 5 5 1 4 3 2 3	Row 22
6 6 7 1 8 2 2 3 2 0 5 5 5 4 0 0 7 4 6 1	Row 23
8 7 8 1 8 4 2 2 6 1 3 1 5 4 4 0 0 2 6 5	Row 24
9 5 6 5 1 5 1 9 6 1 9 2 1 9 5 3 7 6 4 4	Row 25

Mental Athletes will have 5 minutes to memorize a list of computer generated numbers which are presented in rows of 20 digits with 25 rows per page. Competitors MUST start with the first digit in the first row and continue with consecutive rows. Skipping rows is not permitted. Once a row is skipped, scoring will stop.

Once the memorization period is over, the Mental Athletes will have 10 minutes for recall. There are 2 trials for this event and the best score is awarded. 20 points are awarded for every complete row that is correctly recalled in order. For every completed row of 20 that has any mistakes will score 0 points. Scoring will continue for the duration of completed rows that have been completed. Points will be awarded for each correct row independently. (A mistake in a prior or subsequent row will not stop scoring.) For the final row completed, scoring is done a bit differently. If the final row is partially complete but all of the digits are correct, then the points awarded will equal the number of digits recalled.



**NYTimes, Opinion, “Memorize That Poem!”,
Molly Worthen, 8/26/2017**

LATE one night this spring, Justin Snider, an assistant dean at Columbia University, was riding the uptown No. 2 in Manhattan when the train ground to a halt. After about 15 minutes — with little information about the delay and no cell service — everyone in the car was getting restless. Suddenly, inspiration struck. “I asked neighboring passengers if they wanted to hear some Shakespeare, and no one objected,” Mr. Snider told me....He had memorized Hamlet’s “To be or not to be” speech more than 15

years earlier, to pass the time on a cross-country bike trip. “I was definitely nervous because I’d never performed publicly before,” he said. Although his jaded audience neglected to clap when he finished — they did applaud when the train started to move again — Mr. Snider was pleased that he didn’t forget a line...The soliloquy was fixed in the architecture of his brain, ready to serve in a moment of boredom or underground anxiety. It’s no coincidence that Mr. Snider has asked students to memorize poetry many times in his career in education.

4. How to Memorize a TED TALK (Tim Urban, 3/2/2016)

3C) Happy-Birthday-level memorized: When you get to 3C, you don’t just have the script memorized, you have it memorized cold. And that’s a key distinction. If you’re in a restaurant and your table starts singing Happy Birthday to someone you’re with, you can join in with them even if you’re simultaneously taking a picture of the birthday girl, moving some stuff out of the way so the waiter has a place on the table to put the cake, observing the other people in the restaurant looking over and wishing this wasn’t happening, and four other things. It’s no problem—you can still sing the lyrics. You can do that because the lyrics to Happy Birthday aren’t coming out of your conscious mind—they’re coming out of your subconscious. They’re coming out automatically, and your conscious mind can focus entirely on other things while you’re singing.

5) Joshua Foer, Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything

“The more we remember, the better we are at processing the world. And the better we are at processing the world, the more we can remember about it. So why bother investing in one’s memory in an age of externalized memories? The best answer I can give is the one I received unwittingly from EP, whose memory had been so completely lost that he could not place himself in time or space, or relative to other people. That is:

How we perceive the world and how we act in it are products of how and what we remember. We're all just a bundle of habits shaped by our memories. No lasting joke, invention, insight, or work of art was ever produced by an external memory. Not yet, at least. Our ability to find humor in the world, to make connections between previously unconnected notions, to create new ideas, to share in a common culture: All these essentially human acts depend on memory.

Now more than ever, as the role of memory in our culture erodes at a faster pace than ever before, we need to cultivate our ability to remember. Our memories make us who we are. They are the seat of our values and source of our character... Competing to see who can memorize more pages of poetry might seem beside the point, but it's about taking a stand against forgetfulness, and embracing primal capacities from which too many of us have become estranged...memory training is not just for the sake of performing party tricks; it's about nurturing something profoundly and essentially human...To the extent that experience is the sum of our memories and wisdom the sum of experience, having a better memory would mean knowing not only more about the world, but also more about myself.

6) Daniel Kahneman, Thinking Fast and Slow, p389

An experiment about your next vacation will allow you to observe your attitude to your experiencing self: At the end of the vacation, all pictures and videos will be destroyed. Furthermore, you will swallow a potion that will wipe out all your memories of the vacation. How would this affect your vacation plans? How much would you be willing to pay for it, relative to a normally memorable vacation? My impression is that the elimination of memories greatly reduces the value of the experience.

7) *"The process of memorization was difficult, and honestly, unenjoyable, as it isn't something I'm inherently good at. But the recitation piece was oddly empowering. We had studied this perek in depth over the course of the last month, but when I recited it, I felt like I owned it for the first time. And that, weirdly, I understood it more deeply for the first time. It will be cool to actually hear it read in shul in a few weeks."*

דברים כט: ט - יד

- אתם נצבים היום כְּלֹכֶם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם רְאִשֵׁיכֶם שְׂבִטֵיכֶם זִקְנֵיכֶם וְשִׁטְרֵיכֶם כָּל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 - טַפְּכֶם וְנִשְׁיֵכֶם וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבְּךָ מִחֻטְבַּי עִצִּיךָ עַד שֵׁאֵב מִימִיךָ:
 - לְעִבְרְךָ בְּבְרִית יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וּבְאֵלֹתָי אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ כָּרַת עִמָּךְ הַיּוֹם:
- לְמַעַן הַקִּים־אֶתְךָ הַיּוֹם אֲלוֹ לַעַם וְהוּא יְהוָה־לְךָ לְאֱלֹהִים כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּךְ וְכַאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וְלִיעֲקֹב:
 - וְלֹא אֶתְכֶם לְבַדְּכֶם אֲנֹכִי כָּרַת אֶת־הַבְּרִית הַזֹּאת וְאֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים הַזֹּאת:
 - כִּי אֶת־אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁנֹו פֹה עִמָּנֹו עִמֵּד הַיּוֹם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר אֵינְנוּ פֹה עִמָּנֹו הַיּוֹם: