

## HANDY-MNEMONICS

### I Warm up. Discuss the questions in pairs.

1. Riddle: How many fingers do most people have?
2. Do you know how are the parts of the hand called in English? If not, you can check at <https://onlymyenglish.com/five-fingers-name/>  
<https://7esl.com/parts-of-the-hand-vocabulary/> .
3. What do people use their hands for?
4. Are you right or left-handed?
5. Do you ever use your hands to learn or remember something?

### II Match the words with their translation.

- |                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. palm        | a. opuszka palca              |
| 2. characters  | b. wszechstronny, uniwersalny |
| 3. fingertips  | c. przypominać                |
| 4. manual      | d. napis, inskrypcja          |
| 5. versatile   | e. wewnętrzna część dłoni     |
| 6. bizzare/odd | f. wiarygodny, prawdopodobny  |
| 7. inscription | g. kłykieć, kostka u ręki     |
| 8. plausible   | h. znaki (np. na komputerze)  |
| 9. resemble    | i. dziwny                     |
| 10. knuckles   | j. ręczny, instrukcja obsługi |

### III Match the words with their explanation.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. mnemonics       | a. At the winter solstice, the day is the year's shortest, and at the summer solstice, it is the year's longest. |
| 2. solstice        | b. giving origin to something derived or developed   |
| 3. terra incognita | c. having to do with movement or sensation, especially within the body   |
| 4. kinesthetic     | d. unknown or unexplored territory.  |
| 5. primordial      | e. memory techniques   |

### IV Read the texts and mark if the sentences are TRUE or FALSE.

<https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/handy-mnemonics>

1. Easter is always on the same day every year.
2. The "memory palace" is a technique used to remember items by placing them in an imaginary place, or along the way.
3. A 1466 woodcut from Germany, titled *The Hand as the Mirror of Salvation* is connected with religion.
4. The so-called "Guidonian hand" could help people to learn about the solar system.

### V Answer the questions.

1. What are the five Buddhist elements and ten virtues?
2. What did the system of monk Bede help with?
3. What do people use hands for (mention min. 4 verbs)?

4. What is the main difference between "hand mnemonics" and "memory palace"?
5. Give other examples of using mnemonic techniques described in the text.
6. Why was hand mnemonics so popular?

#### **VI Discuss in small groups.**

1. What piece of information was the most interesting/surprising for you?
2. Which of the ideas used in the text could be also useful today?
3. Do you know any other techniques for remembering facts, dates and names?

#### **VI Match the idioms with their meaning. There is 1 extra definition.**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. to be up in arms              | a. to be clumsy, to drop everything                                    |
| 2. to have a finger in every pie | b. to be good at cooking   |
| 3. sb is all thumbs              | c. be indignant or agitated about                                      |
| 4. to live hand to mouth         | d. just to have enough money, no extra                                 |
|                                  | e. to be involved in and have influence over many different activities |

#### **VII Writing- explain/provide examples to 2 chosen idioms in your own words (20-30 words each).**

1. to keep one's fingers crossed
2. to get one's fingers burnt
3. to have one's hands full
4. not to lift a finger

#### **Additional links.**

You can read about the origins of the names of fingers in English at <https://daily.jstor.org/where-do-finger-names-come-from/>

Idioms with body parts at <https://www.espressoenglish.net/18-idiomatic-expressions-with-hand/>

Memory techniques at <https://www.verywellmind.com/great-ways-to-improve-your-memory-2795356>



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