

REMEMBERING GEOGRAPHY PLACES

Due to increased globalization we now live in a world where traveling is an inevitable part of our life. As a professional speaker, my travel calendar involves going to places whose names and pronunciations are absolutely unknown to me. It is in such times that the 'substitution system' comes to my help.

In this discussion, we will take some states and capitals of USA and I will teach you how you can use the substitution system to remember them.

In the first column are the states of the USA and in the second column are their respective capitals

| STATE | CAPITAL |
|--------------|----------------|
| ARIZONA | PHOENIX |
| CONNECTICUT | HARTFORD |
| IDAHO | BOISE |
| MAINE | AUGUSTA |
| OHIO | COLUMBUS |
| TEXAS | AUSTIN |
| WASHINGTON | OLYMPIA |
| WISCONSIN | MADISON |

There are exactly 50 states in the USA. I have randomly selected 8 states. The capital of Arizona is Phoenix, the capital of Connecticut is Hartford, etc.

We are now going to substitute the main words with our own words so that they make some meaning and thus become easy to remember. Have a look at the list given below :

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| State | ARIZONA |
| Capital | PHOENIX |
| Memory Key | 'a PHOENIX' bird flies in an 'AIRY-ZONE' |

The above-mentioned sentence that *'a PHOENIX bird flies in an 'AIRY-ZONE'* will instantly help you remember that PHOENIX is the capital of ARIZONA!

Next, we know that the capital of Connecticut is Hartford. So we use the words 'Connect' and 'Heart' as shown below :

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| State | CONNECT-ICUT |
| Capital | HART-FORD |
| Memory Key | The secret to CONNECT with someone is to touch their HEART |

We know the capital of IDAHO is BOISE. However, we will substitute the word 'BOISE' with the word 'BOYS' (similar sound) and remember it as shown below :

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| State | IDAHO |
| Capital | BOISE |
| Memory Key | 'The state of IDAHO has handsome BOYS!' |

Next, we have the state as MAINE and the capital as AUGUSTA. This one is pretty easy...

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| State | MAIN(E) |
| Capital | AUGUST(A) |
| Memory Key | 'AUGUST is the MAIN month of the year!' |

The capital of OHIO is COLUMBUS. Now we all know that whenever we meet our friends we address them with expressions like 'Oh', 'Hi', 'How are you ?!' We will use something pretty similar here

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| State | OHIO |
| Capital | colum-BUS |
| Memory Key | 'You get down from a BUS and wish 'O Hi' to your friends!' |

The capital of Texas is Austin. We will use two different memory keys to remember it.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| State | TEXAS |
| Capital | AUSTIN |
| Memory Key | 'People in TEXAS drive AUSTIN martin cars' OR 'People in AUSTIN pay a lot of TAXES' |

You can see that we have used two different memory keys here. In the second one, we substituted the word TEXAS with the word TAXES because they are pretty similar. Often we can use multiple memory keys so that if one is forgotten the other can come to our aid.

Next, we know the capital of Washington is Olympia

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| State | WASHING-TON |
| Capital | OLYMPIA |
| Memory Key | During the OLYMPICS, people are WASHING TONS of clothes! |

We just substituted the word OLYMPIA with OLYMPICS that the whole thing made perfect sense!

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| State | WISCONSIN |
| Capital | MAD(I)SON |
| Memory Key | 'My frie in WISCONSIN has a MAD SON!' |

Here split the word MADISON in to the words MAD and SON. Additionally, this sentence is humourous which makes it all the more helpful in remembering it.