

4OW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 9

#194 Methods of learning – By rote memorization

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

- Do you like to learn things by memorization?
- Many people say that learning by hard memorization is outdated and ineffective. Do you agree?

Vocabulary

- Rote learning (n): learning by hard memorization rather than understanding.
- Scorn (v): to show strong dislike and disrespect for something or someone.
- Teaching to the test (phrase): teaching with the curriculum to prepare for taking a test.
- Stigmatize (v): to treat unfairly
- Intertwined (adj): to become twisted together so that it becomes inseparable.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read the following article posted on the internet by Resilient Educator and learn more about the value of rote-learning in modern time:

<https://resilienteducator.com/classroom-resources/what-is-rote-learning/>
What is Rote Learning—and is it Effective? A Battle Between Memory and Intelligence

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following video posted on YouTube to practise your listening skills and learn more about the topic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYpK7nE2Pbo&t=24s>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the following well-put sentence in the article?

When the role of rote memorization is an end in itself, instead of a means to an end, rote memorization fails as a building block to critical thinking.

What are an end, means to an end and a building block?

An end is the ultimate purpose of doing something. A means to an end is the method for achieving an end. A building block is an essential factor for achieving the ultimate purpose.

All these comparisons are widely used in writing and they do make your writing better in style and expressive power. Now, try to write a short story making use of these comparisons and send it to your SEE U teacher at: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.