

1 What does the presenter say about his memory?

- A It is usually extremely good.
- B It used to be better.
- C It is improving with practice.

(S = Simon; R = Roberta)

- S: So, how's your memory these days? Are you one of those people who can get through life without a diary – committing everything to memory and not having to write down a single thing? Or are you more like me – surrounded by lists for everything from meetings to shopping to birthdays to – well, you name it, I have to write it down or it goes straight out of my mind. And somehow I seem to have to remind myself of things more and more often these days! Well, today in the studio we have memory expert Roberta Tanner. So, Roberta – am I on the downward slope as far as my memory is concerned?
- R: Not at all Simon! You just have a lot on your mind. You're also under a certain amount of pressure and when that happens we tend to forget things.
- S: Mm, and what about you? Tell me – did you remember the time and date of this interview or did you have to write it down? If I looked in your bag would I find a load of lists?!

Nothing is said about A & C.

B: he compares his memory before to that of 'these days'.

Language:

- Committing everything to sth: confiant-li tot a .../ encarregant-li tot a...
- You name it: el que sigui, el que se t'ocorri
- To be on the downward slope: estar de baixada, en hores baixes
- To have a lot on your mind: moltes coses al cap (= a lot on your plate)
- A load of: una pila de

2 How did Roberta remember the appointment?

- A She associated it with an important event.
- B She kept a written record of it.
- C She needed to be reminded of it.

I admit – it was in my diary! But of course, I probably would have remembered something as interesting as this interview without that, anyway! And that's quite an important thing about memory – we tend to remember the interesting and exciting things that are coming up in our lives much more than the boring and mundane!

- A. Nothing is said about this.
- B. 'It was in my diary' → a la seva agenda
- C. Nothing is said about this.

Language:

- Mundane: rutinàries, com rentar-se les dents, per exemple.

3 Roberta says that one way to remember something is

- A** to create an unusual mental image of it.
- B** to make an amusing sentence about it.
- C** to relax and think about something else.

S: Human nature really.

R: It's also true that the harder we work at remembering something the longer we remember it for. For example, if you have to remember some things you need to buy – like chicken, potatoes and milk for example – it helps to make a funny picture with all the items. You could imagine a chicken drinking some milk with a potato on its head! Put that picture into your memory and even though it's not the most important part of your day, you'll remember to buy those things!

A. To make a funny picture with all the items

Nothing is mentioned about B & C.

Language:

- 'Funny' means 'divertit' but also 'estrany'.

4 According to Roberta, actors often learn their lines

- A immediately after rehearsals.
- B by repeating them.
- C extremely quickly.

S: OK! Nice image! I've heard that repetition is another good way to remember things.

R: In the short term, yes it can be. Like when you need to keep information in your head before you write it down, like a phone number or an address, so you say it to yourself again and again. And it's one thing actors do to learn their lines for a part. They say them over and over again to themselves and in rehearsals until eventually they're word perfect!

Nothing is said about A & C.

B: 'they say them [their lines] over and over again'

Language:

- In the short-, mid-, long term: a curt, mitjà, llarg termini
- To be word perfect: saber-se perfectament el seu paper

- 5 When he was younger, the presenter says
- A he did well because of his photographic memory.
 - B he always wanted a photographic memory.
 - C he was irritated by someone else's photographic memory.

- S: I read something recently about chimpanzees and how it seems that they might have better memories than humans. What can you tell us about that?
- R: Yes, it's interesting. Scientists in Japan have carried out a number of tests with chimps in recent years. And they think they have evidence that young chimps, in particular, may have a photographic memory.
- S: That's where you can look at a page of text or a picture and remember everything that was on it. There was someone in my class at school who could do that. He got top marks in every test going, it was so annoying!

- A. Nothing is said about this.
- B. Nothing is said about this although it is claimed to be positive.
- C. Because of their photographic memory, this person would always get top marks in every test and she finds it 'annoying'.

6 What did the chimps have to do?

- A type their name on the computer
- B do several mathematical problems
- C remember the location of numbers

R: Yes. Well, it can certainly be very useful! Your classmate was very fortunate. Anyway, in one particular experiment, scientists tested chimpanzees against university students. They showed the chimps and the students a selection of different numbers, arranged in no particular order around a computer touch screen. The participants in the test had to memorise where each number was before all the numbers were quickly replaced with blank squares. They then had to touch the blanked-out numbers on the screen, one by one in the correct numerical order. The chimps performed brilliantly. They were able to do the test successfully even when the numbers were shown for very short times.

S: That's amazing. And the chimps did the test faster than the students, I believe.

- A. They were watching a computer screen, but nothing is said about typing.
- B. The numbers were arranged with no particular order and they just had to memorize their location, not do any mathematical problem.
- C. 'where each number was before all the numbers were quickly replaced.'

Language:

- Blank: empty

7 What does Roberta think might be true?

- A Only chimps have a photographic memory.
- B A photographic memory is more common in young people.
- C A photographic memory stays with you for life.

S: That's amazing. And the chimps did the test faster than the students, I believe.

R: That's right. And another interesting fact is that the chimps who did best in the test were all young. This might be relevant to human memory. It's quite possible that the photographic element of our memory is better when we're younger and we lose it with age.

S: Yes, I'm living proof that memory gets worse as you get older.

R: Well, you know what they say – 'Use it or lose it' ...

S: Mm, yes, I think I ought to start doing more crossword puzzles ...

- A. The opposite is true. Right before they were talking about a student with photographic memory.
- B. 'It's quite possible that the photographic element of our memory is better when we're younger and we lose it with age', making an analogy with the results obtained in chimps.
- C. The opposite is said: 'it gets worse as you get older'.

Language:

Proof – plural → proofs.

To prove: verb