

Rote Memorization

1. Do not attempt to memorize a passage in a single day. By spreading out the learning process, roughly half as many repetitions will be required when compared to learning in a single day. If the passage is short, a single day is okay.
2. Whenever a passage includes a reference (i.e. quotations referencing the author, legal code sections, Bible quotes, poetry, etc.), always include the reference as part of the memorized passage. In this way, the reference will always be part of the quote in your mind.
3. Read the passage five times straight through. Do not try to repeat parts of the passage from memory yet.
4. Repeat the passage five times from memory. If the passage is long, work on one section at a time, repeating five times, then moving on to the next. Don't keep starting over again without finishing, since the first section will be over-learned and the last neglected.
5. Once you can repeat the passage through without looking (which for longer passages might be spread over several days), then leave it alone until later that day. Repeat it again until you can repeat the passage error-free five times.
6. Review the next day, clarifying (refining) all error out of the text. A quick review just prior to retiring for the evening will also help the brain reminisce the passage while you sleep.
7. Review five times each day for a week.
8. Review weekly for a month.
9. Review monthly thereafter.
10. Part of every review should be by reference AND by content. Create a two-way review list: can you remember the content by seeing the reference only? Can you remember the reference by seeing the content only? Reviewing of all memorized material should occur monthly for the remainder of your life. Spread out the memorized material into at least four blocks which are reviewed each week at the same time (Friday during lunch, Saturday mornings, Sunday afternoon - whenever you wish). In this way, the review process is spread out over the month, making review a pleasure rather than a burden. New materials just being learned can be worked into your weekly review sessions easily, eventually taking their place in your "library" of memorized knowledge.