

HOW YOU MAKE THEM FORGET 90%
OF WHAT YOU SAY EVERY WEEK!

How To Make Them Forget
Your Whole Lesson

PERCENTAGES OF RETENTION

We retain:

10 % if we only hear a concept spoken [*lecture, tape, sermon, or radio*]

50 % if we both hear and see the truth [*poster, chart, overhead, pictures, "vivid illustrations"*]

70 % if we hear, and see, and are required to explain it or put it in our own words. [*taking tests, taking notes, giving feedback, or discussing*]

90 % if we hear, see, give feedback, and do. [*put it into practice, teach it to someone else, & make it a part of our daily living*]

Ya, you're to blame if most of them forget.

- ONLY ANSWER 3 OF THESE 6 QUESTIONS ALOUD -

1. Did you get everybody to speak last class period?
or raise hands?
or talk to the person sitting next to them?
or pray silently?
or take notes?
or ask even one non-rhetorical question?

or did you ever pause. . .for 45 seconds so that they could mull over the implications of what you just said?
2. Did you pray before class about a possible application each student [*individually*] could apply the Word of God this week to his/her life?
3. Did you even pray about any student [*individually*] about anything?
4. How many of your students could have given you a 3-sentence answer if you had asked them, "Joe, would you summarize today's lesson and tell me several things that stood out?"
5. Did you visualize anything vividly:
open their Bibles?
write on the board?
pass out an outline?
have them underline or write in their Bibles?

Ah-hah!

6. Do you plan to ask them any follow-up questions next week to see whether they remember anything significant which you said?

IF NOT...

Please turn the page.

I just had a fellow professor tell me yesterday,
 “I get so excited about what I’ve learned that I forget that the important thing in class
 is that the student learns this stuff for himself. So I talk and talk and want them to learn
 all the information I know! Wow! What a mistake.”

You know? He’s right.

MAKE YOURSELF A NOTE AND TAPE IT TO YOUR BATHROOM MIRROR.

Bible teaching is all about what they learn—not about what I know!

Now, go back to the first paragraph and look at what you might expect them to remember if you
 were a better teacher. If your methods were more effective, if you actually focused on what they
 are absorbing, not just listening to your info.

Mehrabian studied communication a little differently. It is of course oversimplified to say it this
 way, but you will get the gist.

Your words contribute 7% of the punch of your message.

Your voice, tone [*or monotone*], volume and passion provide 38%

Your body language says the rest = 55%

posture
 facial expression
 body movement
 nervous gestures
 arms
 eyebrows
 eyes
 eyeball-to-eyeball contact with every person in the room

***Can they tell you are peering into their souls
 or do they think of you as the
 BIG JUG that just fills up the LITTLE MUGS!***

Still, another page.

There is another way that little chart from page one is viewed.

	Remember 3 hours later	Remember 3 days later
Ears only	70%	10%
Eyes only	72%	20%
Ears & Eyes	85%	65%
Hands, too	95%	90%

How much can you expect your teaching will accomplish?

Same kinds of questions for adult classes, youth, and children.

- a. What 5 facts would it be nice if they remembered?
- b. Are there two “What would have happened if . . . ?” questions you could ask?
- c. Go ahead, and tell them one way your own individual, personal life might be affected if you always applied the main focus of the week’s lesson. For a teacher to be transparent is a scary thing.

Then. . .

- d. Give a “60-second opportunity” to anyone willing to share how the Bible lesson could have an impact on his/her life.

If you’re brave, this could be the closing 3 minutes of every class.