

Info Gap: What is Memory?

A

We do not store information by making any kind of literal copy of that information. Rather, we encode and store new information by relating it to what we already know. We map new information onto and linking it up with information that already exists in our minds. New information is stored in association with other memories. Memory is stored in terms of its meaning.

adapted from “Desirable Difficulties: Perspective on Learning” by Robert Bjork

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B

There is no limit to how much we can learn. Storing information doesn't “use up” memory capacity. Rather, storing new information creates a more connections onto which we can connect even more new learning. Learning begets learning.

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A & B: True or False?

1. Memory is like a photograph.
2. One person will store information in a different place than another person.
3. All learning is graphed onto previous learning.
4. The more a person knows, the easier it is to learn new information.
5. There is a limit to what we can learn.