

Memory #6 Interference and Forgetting

The following might come in handy as you wrap up your coverage of the effect of interference on memory.

- Proactive Interference: (A Possible mnemonic: P.I. proactive interference, and P.I. for 'past interferes')
- Retroactive Interference: (Think: R.I. for 'recent interferes'. Or, 'retro' means moving backward or "backward acting", as in "Your clothes are so retro!")

Label each of the following as *proactive interference* or *retroactive interference*:

1. _____ At first after moving to a new home, you give people your old home phone number
2. _____ After spending a substantial amount of time learning a difficult piece of music, you find you can no longer remember how to play a similar piece you once knew fairly well
3. _____ You call your new romantic partner by the name of your ex-romantic partner
4. _____ After a stormy freshman year of college a student moves to a new dorm, where she lives for the remainder of her college career. As she gets near graduation, she has trouble recalling the name of her freshman year dorm or her room number
5. _____ You want to call your ex-romantic partner but the number of your more recent romantic partner keeps comes to mind instead
6. _____ While applying for a job in a state to which you recently moved, you mistakenly write your previous address on the application
7. _____ You want to call your new romantic partner but absent-mindedly dial the number of your ex-romantic partner
8. Come up with your own example of either type of interference: