

SILLY LINGUISTICS

THE MAGAZINE FOR LANGUAGE LOVERS

***TEAR DOWN THE STATUES
IN OUR VOCABULARIES!***

ENOUGH

S IS FOR...

**STORED IN
MEMORY**

**GIVE ME
LIBERTY!**

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This week's page numbers are in Maori!

S IS FOR...



By Chris Davy
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Photo by Fredy Jacob on Unsplash



The mind is like a jug. It's only got so much space in it. So, you can think of the mind of a child like this empty jug; because they haven't learned or experienced anything yet. And then as time passes, and we age and experience things, this jug fills up with stuff. Some of it really sticks in there, and some of it seems to slip from our memory and evaporate. It just disappears.

Now imagine water being poured into this jug. And that water is basically information that gets store in our mind; in our jug. And that water is basically in constant supply. All the time we are alive there is just information pouring into our brains. Everything we can sense we have to process. But what happens when the water gets to the top of our jug? Well, like an actual jug, it's going to overflow. Because there is only so much capacity to our jug. We could try and stop the information coming, but the reality is that's impossible. All we can really change is the pace and amount of information that comes our way; the amount of water. It's really not much use trying to stop the water coming altogether. Because, well, it's coming whether we like it or not.

So, the only thing we can really do is sacrifice some of our memories to make space for new memories and new information. And all this basically makes up our short term memory.



Then imagine, something really impactful and significant happening. Maybe like a birthday, or perhaps something sadder like a funeral. Think of that like a pebble or an object. And drop that into the jug. That is a solid long term memory. That isn't going anywhere. Unless you have some kind of incident that impacts on your brain, that memory is in their pretty tight. Naturally, that is going to take up some space in our jug and so that means there is now less space for short term memory to be stored and processed.

Ok. Stop.

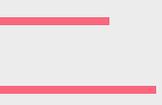


I'm not saying THIS IS HOW THE MIND WORKS! But when I was growing up, I was presented with this concept and it fascinated me. And in many ways it made a lot of sense. Because I could relate to it. Yeah, it would appear I have a short term memory, and a long term memory. And for someone reason I can only take in so much information in. Why is that? This is mad? Why are humans built like this?

Don't get me started. You can dwell on that stuff for hours trying to figure it out. Ultimately, I think the healthy and important thing to do is just S is for...Succumb to where you are at in life. Accept who you are. And respect what you've got. I think that is going to make things a lot easier.

Whatever is going on with people, the mind, and memory, the one thing we can be sure of is it's S is for...Something. But instead of only spending time trying to figure out EXACTLY why things are like they are, I think it's important to spend some time applying what we know and trying to put it to good use. That's just way more fun and enjoyable.

I guess the most important part of this whole analogy is not how we store information and how much information we can store. I think it's fair to say that from person to person a lot of us accept that everyone is different and capable of different things.

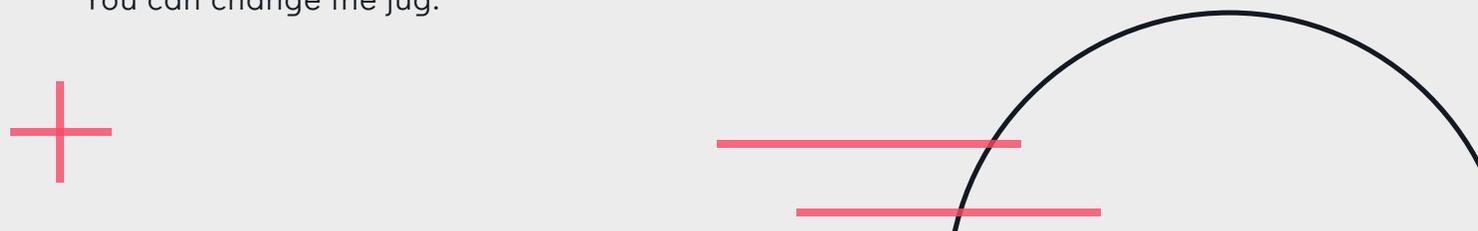


But what is important is how we share our information and transfer it between each other.

Like, I could either take my jug of water and pour you a nice little cup of water for you to drink at your leisure. OR, I could take my jug of water and just POW it straight in your face and drench you with information. I know which one I appreciate more.

Do I believe in that analogy these days? Well, yeah I do. But I also believe in these important things too:

You can change the jug.



The can make the jug bigger and smaller.

You can change the water to a different liquid; like one that's more concentrated or viscous, so then the information you receive is actually of a different quality.

You could even have several different types of liquids poured into that jug at the same time.

You can change those 'impactful objects' that get dropped into your jug; those significant memories that take up space.

You can make them bigger and smaller.

You learn to look at them from a different perspective and actual change what they are.

You can also order and sorted those impactful longer term objects so that they fit into the jug more efficiently and you don't waste so much space.

But you know, I'll happily entertain a bunch of other analogies about how the mind is structured and works.

I like to think of it like an S is for...Sponge too. Similar principle but different way of presenting it.

Why is this important?

Well, I like to think I'm not completely S is for...Stupid. When it comes to learning and putting things into practise without question one of the most important parts of a person is their mind and how they go about utilising it.

I think it's important for us as readers, writers, translators, linguists, artists, musicians, actors, directors, athletes, lawyers, teachers, coaches, doctors, politicians, sons, daughters, and so on and so on...whatever...as people...I think it's important for us to look after our jugs, look after how we fill them, and look after what we fill them with.

As ever, the only thing I do know is...your jug won't look after itself. You actively have to look after it and maintain it yourself.

I figure that's why waterfalls and fountains are so cool to look at.