

# Chunking

- When to use:** When teaching about chunking, meaningfulness, and prior knowledge.
- Purpose:** To demonstrate the process of chunking, and how chunking is related to meaningfulness and prior knowledge.
- Materials:** Slides with 18 letters (see below).
- Directions:** Tell the students that they will see 18 letters on the overhead and that they are to try to remember these letters, *in order*. Put overhead on for 15 seconds, turn the overhead off, wait 5 seconds, then have the students write down the letters. Then put the overhead back on and have the student determine the number of letters that they had correct. Graph the results on the board. Repeat this process for all three overheads.
- Time:** This activity should take about 10 minutes.
- Notes:** Make sure you the overhead is on no longer that 15 seconds. Otherwise they'll remember too many!
- Source:** I made this activity up based on the general literature on chunking, for example, Miller (1956), Johnson, (1970), McNamara, Hardy, and Hirtle (1989).

## Number Series:

- 1st series: DNGPKLCWZMRXJBVYHQ
- 2nd series: NABPOLWISRECGUFQUM
- 3rd series: PATSINBOYDENHUGWAS  
or  
THEBOYWASNOTFORYOU