

Chunking data

You may already do this without realising it and 'chunking' information into manageable pieces is an easy way to recall information and is helpful with numerical data in particular.

We see this with recall for specific gravity ranges where the canine urine specific gravity where the range is commonly:

1.015—1.045

We sometimes get confused with decimal points and saying each number after it individually so it is commonly found that chunking this into a different format helps and we can recall it as 10.15 to 10.45 as if it were an appointment time – something our brains are better at remembering.

You may also find chunking useful for longer number sequences and for those of us old enough to remember when we had to remember phone numbers we usually recalled longer numbers in blocks of 3 or 4. This is easier than recalling a longer sequence so if a phone number was

088934456678

You would break it down into 0889 3445 6678

It's an easy way to write and check microchip numbers too, as these are often 15–18 characters long and may include a sequence of 000s that can be easily miscounted. Writing the long number in groups of 3 will help you ensure you have the correct amount of numbers.