

# Tricks to Remember the Planets

Need an easy way to remember the order of the planets in our Solar System? The technique used most often to remember such a list is a mnemonic device. This uses the first letter of each planet as the first letter of each word in a sentence. Supposedly, experts say, the sillier the sentence, the easier it is to remember.

So by using the first letters of the planets, (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune), create a silly but memorable sentence.

Here are a few examples:

- My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Noodles (or Nachos)
  - Mercury's Volcanoes Erupt Mulberry Jam Sandwiches Until Noon
  - Very Elderly Men Just Snooze Under Newspapers
  - My Very Efficient Memory Just Summed Up Nine
  - My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Names
  - My Very Expensive Malamute Jumped Ship Up North
- Sun and planets to scale. Credit: Illustration by Judy Schmidt, texture maps by Björn Jónsson

If you want to remember the planets in order of size, (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Earth, Venus Mars, Mercury) you can create a different sentence:

- Just Sit Up Now Each Monday Morning
- Jack Sailed Under Neath Every Metal Mooring

Rhymes are also a popular technique, albeit they require memorizing more words. But if you're a poet (and don't know it) try this:

*Amazing Mercury is closest to the Sun,  
Hot, hot Venus is the second one,  
Earth comes third: it's not too hot,  
Freezing Mars awaits an astronaut.  
Jupiter is bigger than all the rest,  
Sixth comes Saturn, its rings look best,  
Uranus sideways falls and along with Neptune, they are big gas balls.*

Create your own!  
Solar System Mnemonic

You will create a solar system mnemonic with your group to help you remember the order of the planets! Put your final draft on this page.

M \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

Write out your mnemonic as a sentence: