

## Mnemonic of PI

The most common type of mnemonic is the **word-length mnemonic** in which the number of letters in each word corresponds to a digit. This simple one gives pi to seven decimal places:

**How I wish I could calculate pi.**

This longer one, giving fifteen decimal places of pi, is popular with students:

**How I like a drink, alcoholic of course,  
after the heavy lectures involving quantum mechanics.**

This little rhyme aids the memorisation of twenty-one digits of pi:

**Now, I wish I could recollect pi.  
"Eureka," cried the great inventor.  
Christmas Pudding; Christmas Pie  
Is the problem's very center.**

And if you feel the need for a device for remembering thirty-one decimal places of pi, try this rhyme:

**Sir, I bear a rhyme excelling  
In mystic force, and magic spelling  
Celestial sprites elucidate  
All my own striving can't relate  
Or locate they who can cogitate  
And so finally terminate. Finis.**

There is a problem with this type of mnemonic that does not affect the above examples. It is how to represent the digit **zero**. Fortunately a zero does not occur in pi until the **thirty-second place**. Several people have come up with ingenious methods of overcoming this, most commonly using a **ten-letter word** to represent zero. In other cases a certain piece of punctuation indicates a naught.

There are many stories and poems crafted in this way, and at least one encoding over 700 digits of pi.

**Website :** <http://britton.disted.camosun.bc.ca/jbpimem.htm>

