

Unit 3

Prose

Forgetting

Robert Lynd



Warm Up

How forgetful are you?

We are all forgetful at times and would like to find ways of improving our memories.

A. How sharp is your memory?

Take this five-minute memory test. The teacher will read out a series of 30 words, one by one. Some of them will be repeated. Whenever you hear a word for the first time, write 'N' (for New) in the corresponding box and when you hear a repeated word write 'R'. After completing this task, check your results. Compare it with your friends and see where you stand.

1	N	11		21	
2		12		22	
3		13		23	
4		14		24	
5		15		25	
6		16		26	
7		17		27	
8		18		28	
9		19		29	
10		20		30	

B. Have you ever lost or misplaced anything of value due to forgetfulness?

At times, instances of forgetfulness may land us in a tight spot or in a difficult situation. Therefore, we need to find ways to remember what we have to do or carry with us. One way is to make a mental check-list that we can verify before starting any activity.

Now discuss with your partner and think of some practical ideas to overcome forgetfulness, in your day-to-day activities.

e.g. setting an alarm

C. Discuss and share your views with the class on the following.

Is forgetfulness a result of carelessness or preoccupation?

Now read the humorous essay 'Forgetting' by Robert Lynd and his analysis of the fundamental reasons for forgetfulness in humans.

A list of articles lost by railway travellers and now on sale at a great London station has been published, and many people who read it have been astonished at the absent-mindedness of their fellows. If statistical records were available on the subject, however, I doubt whether it would be found that absent-