

Eidetic Memory

Eidetic Memory

Eidetic Memory: (eye-DET-ick):

- A mental image that remains for a long period of time (minutes to months).
- In contrast to other visual sensory memories (iconic sensor memory) eidetic memory is more vivid lasts much longer.

Eidetiker

Eidetiker: An individual with an extremely long eidetic memory (photographic memory) – very rare and more common in young children

- Popular idea of a photographic memory to see a page or painting or object for a few seconds and then remember every single detail likely does NOT exist.

Eidetic Memory

- A very small number of autistic people display talents similar to eidetic memory but this is very rare. Specialists doubt the existence of truly photographic memory in people with normal abilities in all other areas.
- Some people do have exceptional memories and there are ways to help people to remember huge amounts of information (more on that later).

Stephen Wiltshire – Eidetic Memory



- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVqRT_kCOLI
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tu4-5U0vYIo>

Eidetic Memory Test -1

Do you think you have a photographic memory?

- Look at the image on the following pages for 30 seconds.
- Next, you will be asked a few questions about what you saw.
- In order to test for eidetic memory you should not use any specific semantic encoding methods – simply look at the image. For example do not consciously try to memorize what you are viewing.



Eidetic Memory Test - 1

1. What type of animal(s) is directly to the left of the man holding the fan?
2. How many circular tiles are on the roof of building in the foreground?
3. What is the figure in the red shirt in the top left of the painting dropping?
4. How many globes with crosses are in the painting and where are they located?

Eidetic Memory Test – 1 Answer Key

1. What type of animal(s) is directly to the left of the man holding the fan?

A large fish eating a small fish

2. How many circular tiles are on the roof of building in the foreground?

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3. What is the figure in the red shirt in the top left of the painting dropping?

Playing cards

4. How many globes with crosses are in the painting and where are they located?

2

Eidetic Memory Test - 2

Do you think you have a photographic memory?

- Look at the image on the following pages for 30 seconds.
- Next, you will be asked a few questions about what you saw.
- In order to test for eidetic memory you should not use any specific semantic encoding methods – simply look at the image. For example do not consciously try to memorize what you are viewing.

Eidetic Memory Test - 2

1. If you are leaving Grand Central on the #7 train heading towards the East River, what is the third stop?
2. At which stations can you make a change from the yellow to the green lines?
3. Which letter trains cross the East River at the Williamsburg bridge?

Eidetic Memory Test - 2 Answer Key

1. If you are leaving Grand Central station on the #7 train heading towards the East River, what is the third stop?

Court Square

2. At which stations can you make a change from the yellow to the green lines?

Lexington Ave/59th; 14th St. Union Square; Canal Street

3. Which letter trains cross the East River at the Williamsburg bridge?

J, M, and Z

Eidetic Memory Test Results

- If you were wrong or could not answer most or all of the questions – you have a normal memory.
- Guesswork or already knowing the answers of course does not count! 😊