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Gone in 30 Seconds

The purpose of this investigation was to determine whether pictures, words or numbers could be remembered accurately by ages 10-12, 13-18, 19-25, 26-40 or 41-55, and if age affected their memory abilities. I hypothesized that if different age groups are compared, then the number of correct answers will increase with ages 26-40. Overall pictures will be more easily remembered than words, followed by numbers. The correct answers will increase up to the age range of 26-40 years old, and then the correct answers will decrease in the age range 41-55. The experiment involved setting up a table and chair, school or work desk. The participant sat in one of the test taking options listed and was told how to engage in the experiment. The participant memorized the test for 30 seconds, then wrote down their age and remembered items. Fifty-five participants were used in my calculations. The data collected partially supported the original hypothesis. Overall, pictures were the most remembered, then numbers, followed by words. Ages 26-40 years old had a higher average by 12.8%, which was 2.8% over the 13-18 year old range, and 2.7% higher than ages 41-55 in correct answers. This data in the age range of 26-40 was also equal to ages 19-25. These findings lead me to believe that we can remember items best when we are 19-40 years old, but after 40 years old our memory starts to decrease. At any age we tend to memorize pictures more easily than words or numbers.