# Knowledge of memory functions

We developed a questionnaire, "Things about memory," to assess knowledge of memory functions. It consists of thirteen statements about why people think about and share memories, which were derived from prior research both within a single culture and across different cultural groups. Compared with other instruments, this questionnaire is kept to a short length so that it can be used with both adults and children. The statements reflect four broad functions of memory and memory sharing: *self, social, directive, and emotion regulation*. Self functions include two statements concerning self-understanding and self-expression. Social functions include three statements concerning relationship maintenance, entertainment, and making conversations. Directive functions include six statements concerning learning lessons, problem solving, and future preparation. Emotion regulation functions include two statements concerning regulating negative affect. Each statement is rated on a scale from 1 (agree a lot) to 5 (disagree a lot).

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# Things About Memory

The following statements concern people's memory of past experiences. For each statement, please circle the number that best matches your agreement or disagreement.

1. A person thinks about things in the past in order to make plans for the future.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

2. When a person is feeling bad, he/she thinks about things in the past in order to make him/herself feel better.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

3. A person thinks about things in the past in order to know the kind of lessons he/she can learn from the past.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

4. When a person is having a question or problem, he/she thinks about things in the past in order to find a solution.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

5. A person thinks about things in the past in order to understand him/herself better.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

6. A person shares memories with others in order to make plans for the future.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

7. A person shares memories with others in order to tell people about him/herself.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

8. When a person is feeling bad, he/she shares memories with others to make him/herself feel better.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

9. A person shares memories with others in order to think about the kind of lessons he/she can learn from the past.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

10. A person shares memories with others in order to make friends.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

11. A person shares memories with others to make people laugh.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

12. When a person is having a question or problem, he/she shares memories with others in order to find a solution.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

13. A person shares memories with others in order to start a conversation.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agree a lot | Agree some | Not sure | Disagree some | Disagree a lot |

Self: 5 (thinking), 7 (sharing)

Social: 10, 11, 13 (sharing)

Directive: 1, 3, 4, (thinking);  6, 9, 12 (sharing)
      learning lesson: 3 (thinking);  9 (sharing)
      problem solving: 4 (thinking);  12 (sharing)
      future planning: 1 (thinking), 6 (sharing)

Emotion: 2 (thinking),  8 (sharing)