

# The Internet is Changing Our Memory



## Reading

New research suggests the Internet is changing our memory. Researchers from Colombia University presented people with different questions and found many began to think of computers. Lead researcher Dr Betsy Sparrow said that when test participants knew the answers would be available on a computer, they did less well on the memory tests. She said we use the Internet as a new “transactive memory”. We rely on this to do the remembering for us. It’s similar to our personal data being backed up on a hard disk. The Internet acts as a huge storage device for all the world’s knowledge, that is there when we need it. Dr Sparrow said computers were not making us less intelligent. “I don’t think Google is making us stupid. We’re just changing the way that we’re remembering things,” she said.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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