

*Person – Woman – Man – Camera – TV*. Readers that have been following American politics, might have immediately recognised this list, as a particularly difficult memorisation task for a certain president. To illustrate what lies at the core of Shoshin, the interactive learning platform I propose to build for students and teaching staff at TUM, I want to make a simple thought experiment with you, dear reader: In addition to these 5 words, we are going to intersperse 3 more words within the list. These are Electrolysis, Signal, and Technical. The full list is thus: *Person – Technical – Woman – Man – Camera – TV – Signal – Electrolysis*. Now take a minute to memorise this list.

Done? Then please cover the words and write them down on a list of paper in reverse order. How many items could you remember correctly? Are you smarter than the president? For some of you, this might have been a trivial task, but what about adding 5, 15, or 25 more words? In an average lecture, a student gets confronted with far more than 5 new terms that she has to memorise and understand, given a specific context. This is far from trivial, yet our educational system spends very little time reinforcing knowledge. Instead, we expect students to regurgitate a synthesis of this knowledge during an exam and let them pass, once they achieved a required minimum. This, together with the fact that even the highest achieving student forgets a third of learned material after a year without active review, allows for knowledge gaps to accumulate throughout their studies and leads to compounded knowledge failures.

Now, let us revisit memorising the previously mentioned list by making use of a simple concept that will be part of the core learning methodology fuelling the proposed interactive learning platform Shoshin: Building a Memory Palace! First, visualise standing in front of a building you are deeply familiar with and start walking into this exact building. In the very first room you just entered, you discover Donald Trump singing the beginning of *Hoobastank* song *The Reason*: “I’m not a perfect **person**”. After moving to the second room you see Tiger Woods taking a shot with a miniature blue golf ball that sports the white initials “TUM”, short, of course, for **Technical** University of Munich. Moving on to the next room you are suddenly confronted by Julia Roberts misquoting *Notting Hill* to Hugh Grant: “I’m just a **woman**, standing in front of a **man**, asking him to love her”. Before you can correct her, you are taken aback by several bright flashes. You go to the next room to investigate and find Bradley Cooper trying to replicate his Oscar selfie with a polaroid **camera**. Unimpressed, you move on as loud grunting noises fill your ears. Going into the next room reveals Dwayne Johnson wrestling with a giant **TV**, trying to flip channels. Slightly concerned, you back out of the room and into the next, where you find Johnny Depp dressed as a Native American and using a blanket over a fire to send a smoke **signal** from within the room. Coughing and wheezing from the smoke, you quickly leave the room, closing the door behind you. Finally, you are greeted by an electro version of *Smelly Cat*, sung by no other than Lisa Kudrow. Shaking your head, you realise that electro Lisa (**Electrolysis**) is no better than regular Phoebe. Now, retry recalling all items and compare to your previous effort – do you notice a difference?

Shoshin is a platform that enables interactive and personalized learning. Learning can happen regardless of location, on mobile phones and in the browser, and is based on the latest research surrounding learning methodology, making it both fun and easy, as exemplified above. With Shoshin students are set on their personalised journey to mastery whilst teaching staff can focus on crafting delightful learning experiences.