

# Increasing pupil satisfaction regarding a vocabulary expansion programme







# Welcome!

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## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

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# First off:

- ~~Rocket science~~
- Is that it?
- Representational?
- There is no ultimate truth



*“Whether you think you can or  
you can’t, you’re right” – Henry  
Ford*



“





## Today:

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- Discuss aims
- Outline the problem
- Substantiate the approach
- Illustrate the approach
- Present one of the tools: Memrise
- Present my research
- Discuss future changes to our approach





## **What I hope to achieve today:**

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- Questioning your own methods/assumptions;
- Introduce several tools;
- Make a well-informed decision;
- Identify the risks and the loopholes;
- Discuss alternative solutions.





## Solutions?

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- So what's the problem, then?
- pupils are often left to their own devices;
- pupils will often opt short-term studying





## The importance of vocabulary

- Nation and Waring (1997):  $\pm 80\%$  of the words;
- Laufer (1989):  $\pm 95\%$  of the words;
- If:
  - Teachers use the vocab lists available in the textbooks they use:
  - $\pm 1500$  words are studied each year
- What about long term retention?





## **Effective vocabulary expansion**

- Thornbury (2006): (intrinsic) motivation is key, a learner should be able to learn at their own pace, & some words are easier to understand for certain learners than for others;
- Russell (1979) & Schmitt (2010): principle of expanding rehearsal.

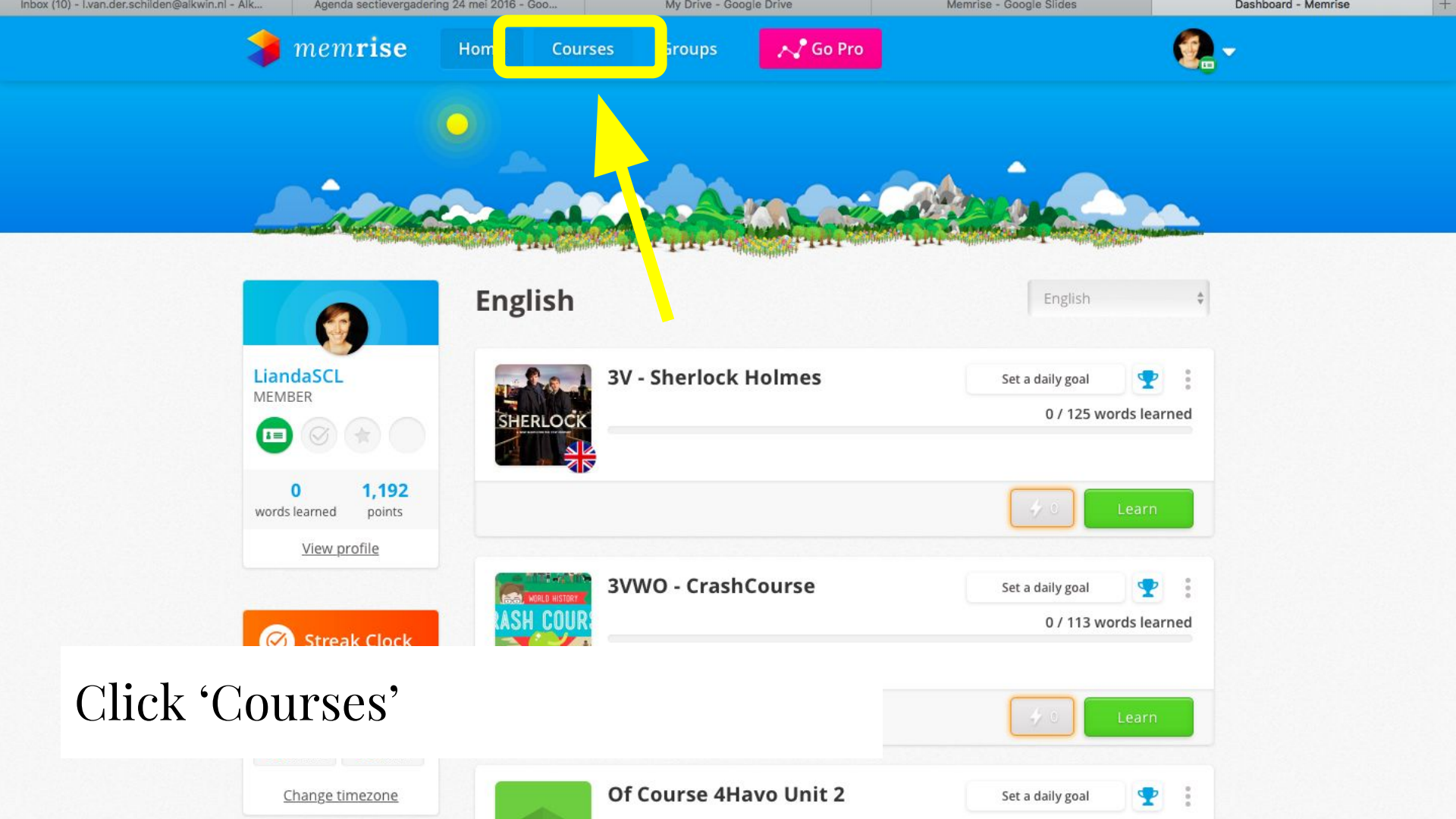




## Our approach:

- Memrise:
  - Approximately 150 words per course
  - 4 courses per year
  - Selected from the sources we used (books, videos, short stories, etc.)
  - Vocabulary = a plant:
    - In order to keep it healthy, it needs to be looked after and maintained.





## English

English

**LiandaSCL**  
MEMBER

0 words learned    1,192 points

[View profile](#)



### 3V - Sherlock Holmes

Set a daily goal



0 / 125 words learned



Learn



### 3VWO - CrashCourse

Set a daily goal



0 / 113 words learned



Learn

### Of Course 4Havo Unit 2

Set a daily goal



Click 'Courses'

[Change timezone](#)



## Search...

 English English

 Japanese

 Mandarin Chinese (...)

 Spanish

 French

 Korean

 German

Computers &amp; Engi...

Japanese by [jlptbootca...](#)

## Introduction to Japanese

560k 3h

Italian by StefanoD...

## Learn Basic Italian

362k 5h

Mandarin C... by BenWhately

**HSK level 1 -  
Introductory**

350k 13h

# Courses







inbox (10) - l.van.der.schilden@alkw...

Agenda sectievergadering 24 mei 2...

My Drive - Google Drive

Memrise - Google Slides

Create a Course - Memrise

Favorites

+

memrise

Home

Courses

Groups

Go Pro

+ Create a Course

Name

Demo Course

Naming your course well will help other learners find it.

Teaching

English

For

Dutch

speakers

Tags

Demo Course

E.g. Spanish vocabulary, learn spanish online, spanish grammar

Description

Everything you need to know about Memrise

Keep the description of the course in the language of what the learners speak.

Short description

Memrise 101

A short description for our apps.

Why create a course?

• A quick list of personal facts to remember

• Share common content with your classmates/colleagues

• Share awesome teaching materials with the community!

Need more help?

Check out the [Course Creation knowledge base](#).

Fill out the forms





Home

Courses

Groups

Go Pro



Demo Course



Created by  
LiandaSCL

Editing

Words

Contributors

Details

Back to Course

Test on English, prompt with Dutch.



Show attributes

Advanced

English

Dutch

Audio

Add words:

+ Add Level

Save and continue



Memrise

About Us  
Science  
Contact Us

More

Blog  
Forums  
Teachers

Browse courses

Languages  
Arts & Literature  
Maths & Science  
The Natural World  
History & Geography  
Professional & Careers  
Entertainment  
Trivia

Add words, one at a time







[Courses](#) > [Languages](#) > [European](#) > [English](#)

## Demo Course

Everything you need to know about Memrise



Created by  
**LiandaSCL**



Share



Tweet



Words



Forum



Difficult words



Edit Course

0 / 47 words in long term memory

0 ignored



Options ▼



0

Learn



Leaderboard

Week

Month

All Time

[More](#)

Ready to learn



Ready to review



Ignore

aside from

behalve

to behold

aanschouwen


to represent





vertegenwoordigen

Now click 'Groups' to create your own groups





  
**LiandaSCL**  
MEMBER


**0** words learned **1,192** points

[View profile](#)


**PRO**

## Groups I've created

Create a new group

 **3V1** Stats Invite  
Group created by [LiandaSCL](#)

Courses Members (29) Hide

1.  **3VWO - CrashCourse** Difficult Review Learn


Click 'Create a new group'

More learn modes  
More variety





You can only add courses that you are learning to your group.







**LiandaSCL**  
MEMBER

**0** words learned **1,192** points

[View profile](#)

## Groups I've created

Create a new group



Group:

English Department

I use this group for:

☒ Teaching my students

☐ Learning with my friends

Create group



**3V1**

Group created by [LiandaSCL](#)

Stats

Invite

Members (29)

✕ Hide

1.



**3VWO - CrashCourse**

 Difficult

Review

Learn

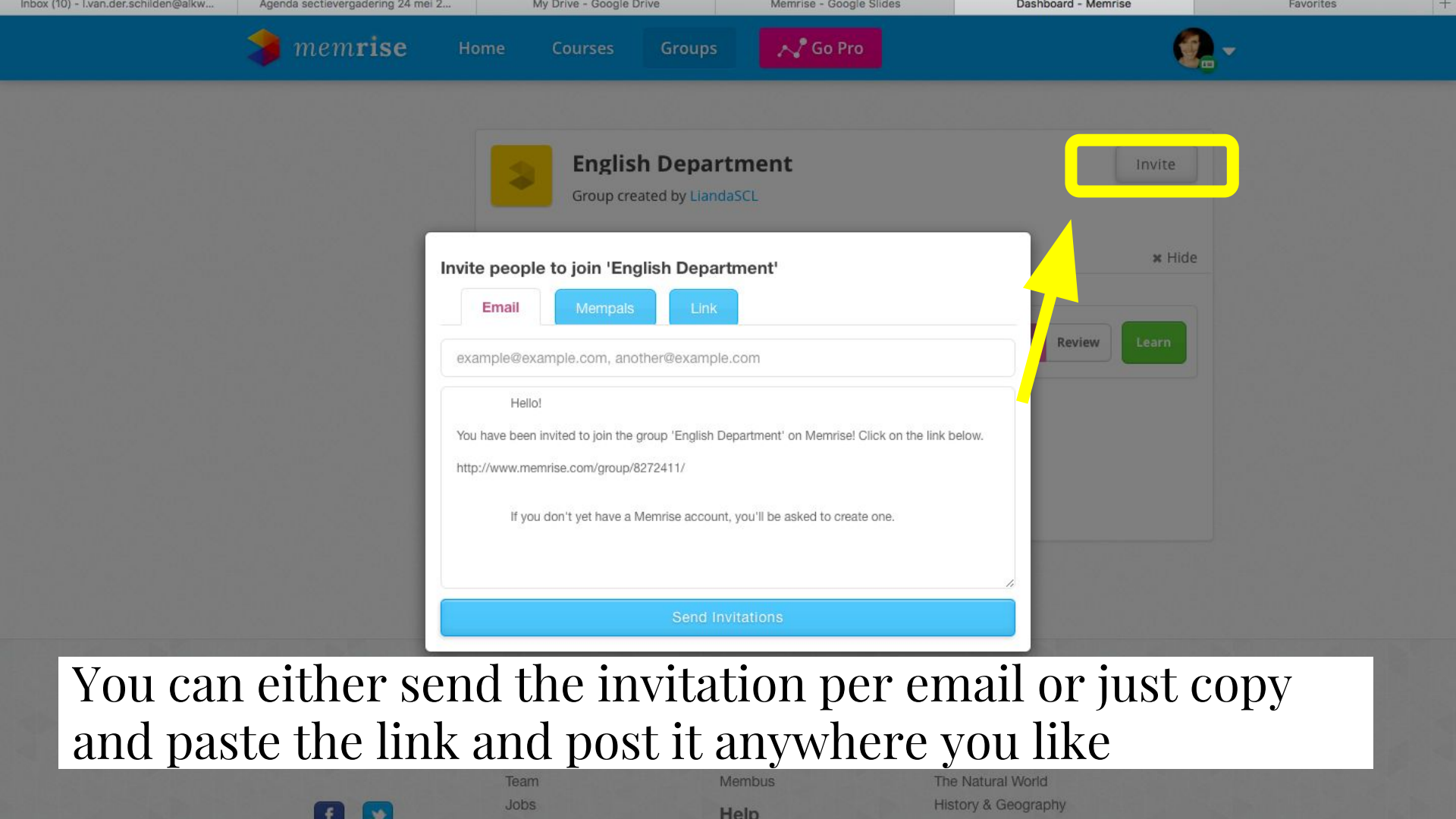
Fill out the form

More learn modes  
More variety









## English Department

Group created by LiandaSCL

Invite

Hide

Review

Learn

### Invite people to join 'English Department'

Email

Mempals

Link

example@example.com, another@example.com

Hello!

You have been invited to join the group 'English Department' on Memrise! Click on the link below.

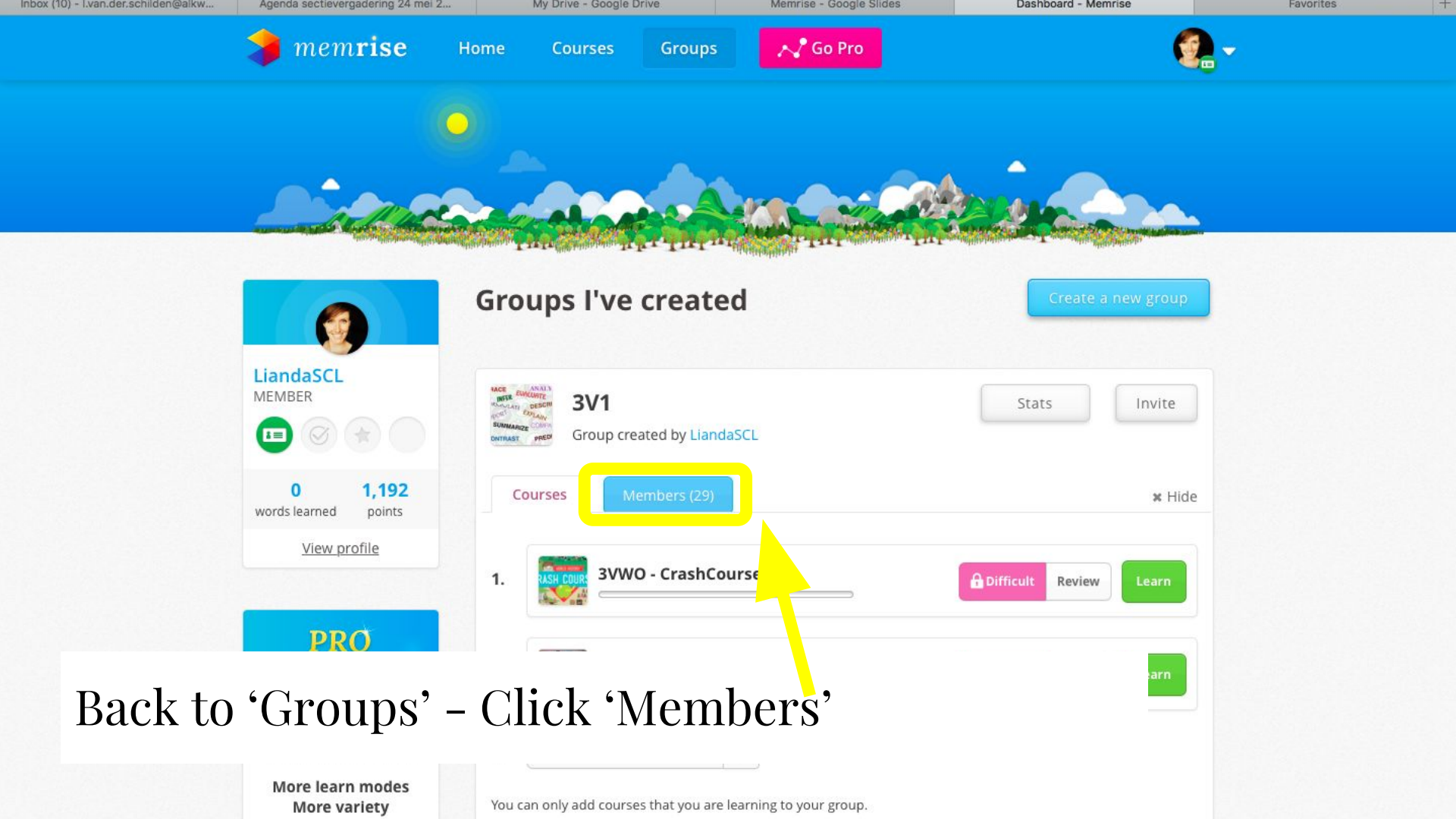
<http://www.memrise.com/group/8272411/>


If you don't yet have a Memrise account, you'll be asked to create one.





Send Invitations

You can either send the invitation per email or just copy and paste the link and post it anywhere you like





  
**LiandaSCL**  
MEMBER


**0** words learned **1,192** points

[View profile](#)


**PRO**

## Groups I've created

Create a new group

 **3V1** Stats Invite  
Group created by [LiandaSCL](#)

Courses **Members (29)** Hide

1.  **3VWO - CrashCourse** Difficult Review Learn

Learn

You can only add courses that you are learning to your group.

Back to 'Groups' - Click 'Members'


More learn modes  
More variety







The Members section will show you the number of points your pupils have scored all in all or per week or per month





  
**LiandaSCL**  
MEMBER


**0** words learned **1,192** points

[View profile](#)

**PRO**


## Groups I've created

Create a new group

 **3V1**  
Group created by [LiandaSCL](#)

[Stats](#) [Invite](#)

[Courses](#) [Members \(29\)](#) [Hide](#)

1.  **3VWO - CrashCourse**

[Difficult](#) [Review](#) [Learn](#)

Back to 'Groups' – Click 'Stats'

More learn modes  
More variety

You can only add courses that you are learning to your group.









## Learning Stats

3V1

3VWO - CrashCourse

### 3VWO - CrashCourse - Stats

Students	Study time (In the last 30 days)	Words learned	Words healthy in LTM	Difficult Words	Course progress	Points (In the last 30 days)
 Liejanda	0m	113	0	6	<div><div>100%</div></div>	0
 Vera_Zonneveld16	0m	0	0	0	<div><div>0%</div></div>	0
 AK213208	0m	113	0	4	<div><div>100%</div></div>	0
 AK213147	0m	85	0	4	<div><div>75%</div></div>	0
						0

Stats



aside from



behalve

No mems

by Author

CONTINUE

aanschouwen



to emerge

to blend

to behold

to conquer

vertegenwoordigen



Dutch > English

s r t o n  
p e c

SKIP

space



45

# aanschouwen



aside from

to behold

to emerge

to require

195

# to behold



aanschouwen

overeenkomsten

overtuigen

mate

opkomen

uitbreiding

645

# indrukwekkend



Dutch > English

q m v r p  
i s e SKIP

space





Learn 5 new words Demo Course

0



[Keyboard shortcuts](#)

[Mute audio](#)

# remarkable

*opmerkelijk*



More



 Help me remember this





Learn 5 new words Demo Course

0

[Keyboard shortcuts](#)[Mute audio](#)

opmerkelijk

Select the correct **English** for the **Dutch** above:

1. remarkable

2. to remain

3. to represent

4. government

See answer





Learn 5 new words Demo Course

405



[Keyboard shortcuts](#)

[Mute audio](#)



overtuigen



Check



Type the **English** for the **Dutch** above and press Enter:

See answer







Learn 5 new words Demo Course

1080



[Keyboard shortcuts](#)

[Mute audio](#)



overtuigen



Next

+45

Type the **English** for the **Dutch** above and press Enter:

to convince



See answer





Learn 5 new words Demo Course

1350



# Session complete!



✓ Correct answers	30	1,350 pts
⌚ Speed	1min 16	85 pts
⚡ Accuracy	100%	600 pts
Total points		2035 pts

Next >

## Here are the memories you learned

Difficult Words	Memory strength	English	Dutch	Accuracy	Current streak
⚡		remarkable	opmerkelijk	6 / 6	6
⚡		degree	mate	6 / 6	6



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1

**Sounds great**

Or does it?





## My observation:

- Gifted pupils spent more time on this approach than strictly necessary (remember Thornbury (2006): *some words are easier to understand for certain learners than for others*);
- These pupils seemed somewhat disappointed.





## **Research question:**

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- To what degree does the addition of an extra possibility to meet vocabulary expansion requirements in year 5 at Alkwin Kollege increase pupil satisfaction regarding the vocabulary expansion programme amongst pupils who feel like their own approach would cost them less effort?





## Procedure:

- Pupils could take part in a ‘side-track’ (hereafter referred to as *ST-pupils*);
- All pupils were asked about:
  - Their general satisfaction regarding the vocabulary expansion programme (*VEP*);
  - Their opinion on the repetition as part of the Memrise-courses;
  - Their perception of the efficiency of Memrise;





## Procedure:

- All pupils were asked about:
  - The time it takes them to study 25 words:
    - Using Memrise
    - Using their own method
  - How much time they would be willing to spend to study 25 words;
- ST-pupils were asked:
  - To re-evaluate the programme as a whole and Memrise in itself, after completing the ST.





## Selecting pupils:

- All pupils were offered to take part in the Side Track;
- As part of the Side Track:
  - Students would not have to complete the Memrise course;
  - Would receive the exact same vocab list, but instead had to take a test after 4 weeks;
  - They needed to have an 80% score on the test to pass.
- 31,6% opted for the Side Track.





## Results:

**Table 1** Satisfaction regarding the VEP

Average rating (1-7)	
All pupils	5.05
ST-pupils (1st survey)	5.13





## **What I hope to achieve today:**

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- Show you how valuable questioning your own methods/assumptions can be;
- Introduce several tools that can be employed to get pupils to expand their vocabulary;
- Ensure you are able to make a well-informed decision;
- Identify the risks and the loopholes your pupils will find;
- Discuss alternative solutions.





## Results:

**Table 1** Satisfaction regarding the VEP

	Average rating (1-7)
All pupils	5.05
ST-pupils (1st survey)	5.13
ST-pupils (2nd survey)	6.05





## Results:

**Table 2** Satisfaction regarding the VEP & Memrise

	Average rating (1-7)
1st survey VEP as a whole (all pupils)	5.05
2nd survey: VEP (ST-pupils)	6.05
2nd survey: Memrise (ST-pupils)	4.26





## Results:

**Table 3** Satisfaction regarding repetition

	Average rating (1-7)
All pupils	4.49
ST-pupils (1st survey)	5.00
ST-pupils (2nd survey)	4.47





## Results:

**Table 4** Evaluation of efficiency: Memrise

	Average rating (1-7)
All pupils	4.68
ST-pupils (1st survey)	4.63
ST-pupils (2nd survey)	3.00





## Results:

**Table 5** Evaluation of efficiency: personal method (ST-pupils)

Average rating (1-7)

ST-pupils (2nd survey)

5.15





## Results:

**Table 6** Amount of time pupils need to study or are willing to invest in studying 25 words.

	Personal method	Memrise	Willing to invest
All pupils	1:32:26	1:16:20	1:07:19
ST-pupils (1st survey)	0:46:24	0:58:45	0:41:34
ST-pupils (2nd survey)	0:30:00	0:48:51	0:24:13





## Results:

**Table 7** Amount of time pupils need to study or are willing to invest in studying 25 words (grouped based on test result).

	Personal method	Memrise	Willing to invest
Pupils who failed	0:24:35	0:38:10	0:23:20
Pupils who passed	0:25:50	1:03:20	0:20:00





## Results:

**Table 8** Satisfaction regarding Memrise and the VEP as a whole.

	Memrise	VEP
Pupils who failed	4.33	5.83
Pupils who passed	4.33	6.67





## Results:

**Table 9** Satisfaction regarding the repetition as part of Memrise and the personal method these pupils opted for.

	Memrise	Personal method
Pupils who failed	5.08	4.75
Pupils who passed	3.67	6.67





## Results:

**Table 10** Evaluation of efficiency (both Memrise and the personal method).

	Memrise	Personal method
Pupils who failed	3.08	4.75
Pupils who passed	2.83	6.17





## **So, now what?**

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- Pupils weren't all too unhappy to begin with;
  - After ST: even more content;
  - But were we?
- 
- The test still allowed for pupils to study vocab the night before the test;
  - We figured out students found ways to cheat.





## What's next?

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### Current approach

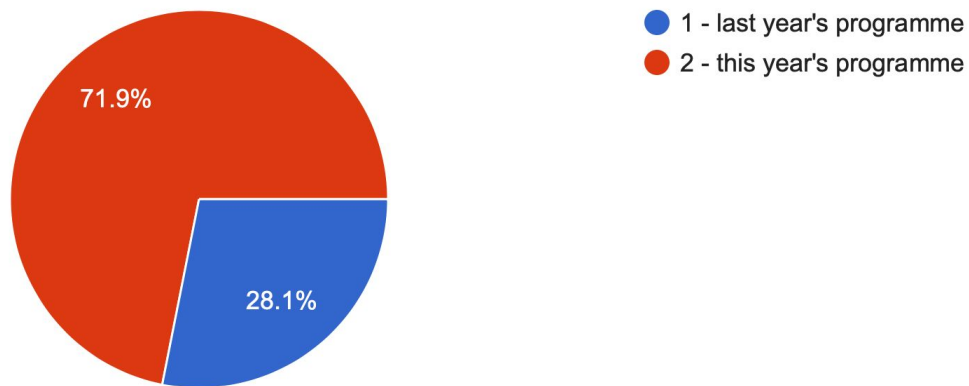
- Complete the Memrise course (study 100% of the words);
- Take a test (using classmarker.com);
- Get an 80% score.





## So, now what?

Which one of the two is more effective?

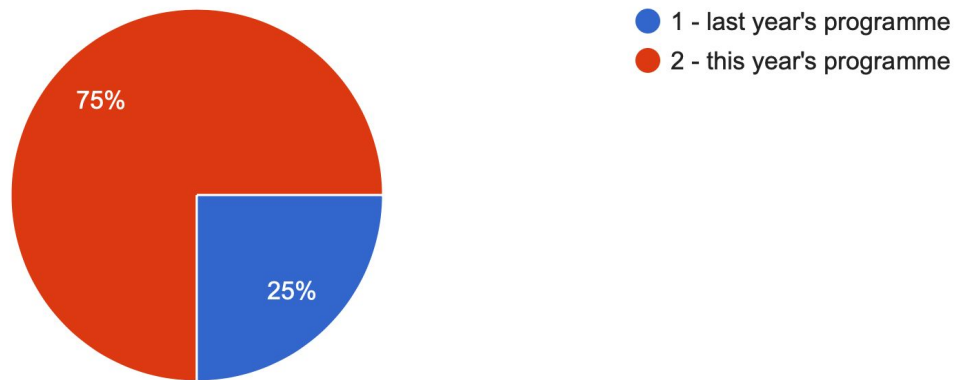






**So, now what?**

Which one of the two is more efficient?

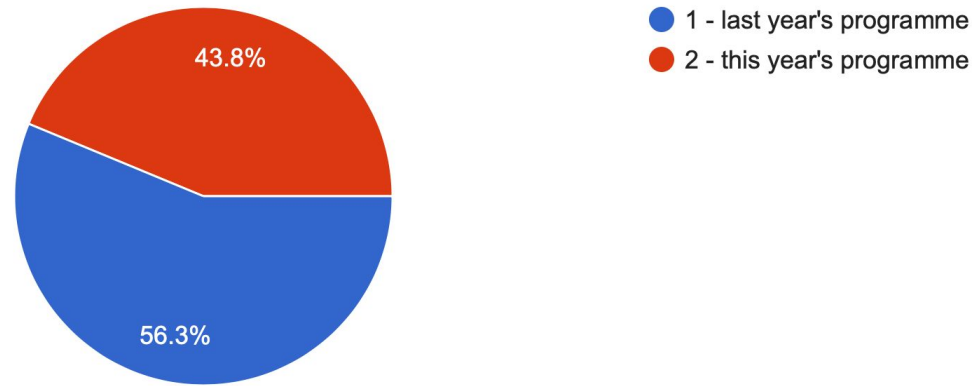






## So, now what?

Which one of the two do you prefer?







## What's next?

### Future approach

- Approach similar to test procedure as part of the BA Medicine programme;
- 50% of every test: new knowledge (vocab)
- 50%: vocab from previous years/terms



*What kind of problems do you run into?*  
*What are your thoughts on the ‘solutions’ presented today?*  
*What would you like to experiment with yourself?*



“