

## BRIEF SUMMARY

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**Koutstaal, W. (2006). Flexible remembering. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 13, 84–91.**

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Although highly specific memory is critical in many contexts, the ability to recall knowledge in a more abstract or "gist-based" manner is crucial to allowing transfer of learning to new situations and to complex forms of thought such as using analogies and drawing inferences based on the classification of events and objects. Yet it is unknown whether we can flexibly and intentionally alternate on demand between recollection of gist and recollection of detail, particularly for events from a single context. In a randomly-cued test of item-specific versus category-based recognition, younger—and to a lesser extent, older—adults here demonstrated such flexible remembering. Gist control was higher in younger than in older adults, and in older adults it correlated with measures of frontal function.

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