

English 20

3.141  
5926  
5358  
979323  
84626433  
83279502  
88419716  
9399375  
10582097494  
4592307816  
40628620899  
862803482534  
21170679821  
48086513282306  
64709384460  
95505822317253  
59408128481  
117450284102  
7019385211055  
59644622948  
954930381964  
428810975  
6659334461284  
75648233786  
783165271201  
90914564856  
69234603486  
10454326682  
1339360726024  
91412737245  
870066063155  
8817488152  
09209628292  
54091715364  
3678925  
903600113305  
3054882046  
65213841  
469519  
4151160  
9433

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[Prologue]

The following self-referential story is a mnemonic for the first 402 decimals of the number PI. As it indicates, merely count the number of letters in each word of the story (beginning with the first word, "For" , up to and including the final words, "The End") to obtain the successive decimals to PI. Any punctuation mark other than a period represents a zero digit (a period stands for no digit). Words of longer than 9 letters represent two adjacent digits (for example, a twelve-letter word represents the two digits 1-2). A digit written literally stands for the same digit in the expansion. This feature would be considered "cheating".

As far as I can determine, this story establishes a new record length for a literary PI mnemonic, although clearly the length of such a mnemonic is limited only by the patience of the constructor. It has been checked by a computer program for correctness to the decimals of PI.

[Text]

For a time I  
stood pondering on circle  
sizes. The large computer  
mainframe quietly processed all of its  
assembly code. Inside my entire hope lay for  
figuring out an elusive expansion. Value: pi.  
Decimals expected soon. I nervously entered a format  
procedure. The mainframe processed the request. Error.  
I, again entering it, carefully retyped. This iteration gave  
zero error printouts in all - success. Intently I waited.  
Soon, roused by thoughts within me, appeared narrative mnemonics  
relating digits to verbiage ! The idea appeared to exist but only  
in abbreviated fashion - little phrases typically. Pressing on I  
then resolved, deciding firmly about a sum of decimals to use - likely  
around four hundred, presuming the computer code soon halted!  
Pondering these ideas, words appealed to me. But a problem of zeros did  
exist. Pondering more, solution subsequently appeared. Zero suggests a  
punctuation element. Very novel! My thoughts were culminated. No  
periods, I concluded. All residual marks of punctuation = zeros. First  
digit expansion answer then came before me. On examining some problems  
unhappily arose. That imbecilic bug! The printout I possessed showed four  
nine as foremost decimals. Manifestly troubling. Totally every number  
looked wrong. Repairing the bug took much effort. A pi mnemonic with  
letters truly seemed good. Counting of all the letters probably should  
suffice. Reaching for a record would be helpful. Consequently, I

continued, expecting a good final answer from computer. First number slowly displayed on the flat screen - 3. Good. Trailing digits apparently were right also. Now my memory scheme must probably be implementable. The technique was chosen, elegant in scheme: by self reference a tale mnemonically helpful was ensured. An able title suddenly existed - "Circle Digits". Taking pen I began. Words emanated uneasily. I desired more synonyms. Speedily I found my (alongside me) Thesaurus. Rogets is probably an essential in doing this, instantly I decided. I wrote and erased more.

The Rogets clearly assisted immensely. My story proceeded (how lovely!) faultlessly. The end, above all, would soon joyfully overtake. So, this memory helper story is incontestably complete. Soon I will locate publisher. There a narrative will I trust immediately appear, producing fame. THE END.

#### [Epilogue]

For those who want to compose even longer mnemonics using the same or similar rules, the following points may be of interest:

1. At decimal 601, the first triple-zero occurs. Clearly we can handle this with the present scheme, but a little ingenuity is required. No quadruple-zeros occur within at least the first 10,000 decimals, so we don't have to concern ourselves with that possibility.

2. At decimal 772 we encounter the amazing sequence 9999998. This seven-digit group has the largest digit sum of any seven-digit group in the first million decimals! Because of the resulting requirement for seven adjacent long words, it also poses quite a challenge in encoding.

We have seen pi-mnemonic sentences, poems, and now, a short story. Perhaps some day a complete novel?

Keith II , pp. 56 - 57

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