



## LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

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Learning Ritual [Support Material]

### LEARNING RITUAL

Learning ritual and delivering it well makes a big difference to our enjoyment of Freemasonry and our meetings. Not everyone wishes to learn ritual and if a member does not wish to commit to learning, then they can also make a useful contribution to the Unit and gain a lot of satisfaction.

The impact of any Masonic ceremony is greatest when delivered from memory and not when read from the book. Therefore, even these shorter sections require plenty of advance notice, guidance, and personal support.

Despite claims that “younger Freemasons won't learn ritual,” many Lodges and Chapters have found that by providing advance notice and opportunities to practice, this is simply not the case—everyone enjoys the challenge and satisfaction that comes from learning and delivering ritual.

Key points include:

- Start learning well in advance of when you are expected to deliver the ritual (several months ahead).
- Allocate time each day to learning and use “committed time” (e.g., when travelling).
- Start by reading the text over and over, initially silently “in your head.”
- Research words you do not understand and ask your Personal Mentor for clarification. You will find it easier to learn words you understand, this also helps you to deliver the ritual in a more meaningful way.
- Continue by reading the words aloud, again over and over.
- Ask your personal mentor or a trusted more experienced mason to check your phrasing, or use of punctuation, and pronunciation.
- Record yourself reading the ritual and play this recording repeatedly each day.
- As you become more familiar with the words and their sound, test your ability to repeat passages by saying them aloud without reading the book or listening to the recording.
- Begin by saying one sentence aloud and when you have learned that, add another, and then another.
- Gradually increase the length of the passage you recite from memory.
- Once you are at this stage, ask someone else to hold the book for you as you recite the passages (except any ‘words’ or ‘passwords’). Ask them not to interrupt you, but to let you know where you went wrong when you had finished, or prompt you upon **your** request. *This does not have to be a Mason.*
- Repeat this until you can recite the whole passage.
- Practice delivering your ritual in your Lodge meeting room (or other large space) with only one other person, such as your Personal Mentor or Lodge Preceptor, present.
- Attend Chapter rehearsals to deliver the piece to a group in a helpful environment.

There are also many different books on learning techniques now available, some of which have recently been reviewed in a [UGLE Blog](#)—there is also an example from a talk given by the Lincolnshire Provincial Learning and Development Team available as a separate case study in this section.