

# Parliamentary Mnemonics

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A mnemonic is a device, such as a formula, an acronym, or a rhyme, that is used to aid memory. In parliamentary procedure there are many things to remember in specific orders, or limited pathways depending upon specific circumstances. Over the years parliamentarians have developed mnemonics to help. Sometimes the mnemonics are nonsense words or phrases, sometimes they are funny, and sometimes even a little vulgar. The mnemonics included promise to be both memorable and helpful to the use of parliamentary procedure.

- The ladder of motions

The Privileged Motions (hi to low) = **Fat Ants Receive Raisin Cake**

The Subsidiary Motions (low to hi) = **People At Cocktail Parties Look Pretty Lively**

Thus, the ladder of motions in proper ranking order, from bottom to top, becomes:

<b>Fat</b>	<b>Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn</b>
<b>Ants</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>
<b>Receive</b>	<b>Recess</b>
<b>Raisin</b>	<b>Raise a Question of Privilege</b>
<b>Cake</b>	<b>Call for the Orders of the Day</b>
<b>Lively</b>	<b>Lay on the Table</b>
<b>Pretty</b>	<b>Previous Question</b>
<b>Look</b>	<b>Limit or Extend Limits of Debate</b>
<b>Parties</b>	<b>Postpone to a Certain Time</b>
<b>Cocktail</b>	<b>Commit (Refer to a Committee)</b>
<b>At</b>	<b>Amend (primary &amp; secondary)</b>
<b>People</b>	<b>Postpone Indefinitely</b>

**Main Motion**

- The nine bylaw articles

NO MOM E C PA (pronounced "No Mommy, See Pa.")

Article I	<b>Name</b>
Article II	<b>Object</b>
Article III	<b>Members</b>
Article IV	<b>Officers</b>
Article V	<b>Meetings</b>
Article VI	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Article VII	<b>Committees</b>
Article VIII	<b>Parliamentary Authority</b>
Article IX	<b>Amendment</b>

- The four actions that can be legally taken when no quorum is present.

F A R T (crude, but effective)

<b>Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>
<b>Recess</b>
<b>Take measures to obtain a quorum</b>