Factors that Influence Forgetting

Concept	Description	Example
Encoding failure	The information never got to long-	Which penny is real?
	term memory because it was not	
	properly encoded.	
Interference		
Proactive	Forgetting in which an old memory	I have a hard time remembering my
	(the past) interferes with	new phone number. I often get it
	remembering a new memory;	mixed up with my previous phone
	forward-acting memory	number.
	interference.	
Retroactive	Forgetting in which a new memory	I go back to visit my parents every
	interferes with remembering an old	Christmas. Since I have been doing
	memory; backward-acting memory	laundry with a different machine, I
	interference (eg. "going home", false	have a hard time remembering how
	memories).	to use the one at home.
Motivated forgetting		
Suppression	Conscious forgetting	Supper
Repression	Unconscious forgetting	Regurgitate
Decay	Forgetting is due to normal	
	metabolic processes that occur in the	
	brain over time.	

Severe Memory Loss and the Biological Basis of Memory

Type of amnesia	Definition	Example
Retrograde	Backward-acting memory loss; especially for episodic memory. It is believed that the process of memory consolidation is impaired with severe blows to the head.	Trevor Reese Jones (Princess Diana's bodyguard) has retrograde amnesia.
Anterograde	Loss of memory caused by the inability to store new memories; forward acting memory loss.	H.M. could not form new explicit memories (episodic and semantic), but could learn and form new procedural memories.
Infantile	The inability to remember experiences during childhood. This is generally attributed to the lack of organization about the world and information is quickly lost as well as an immature hippocampus that prevents us from encoding explicit memories.	