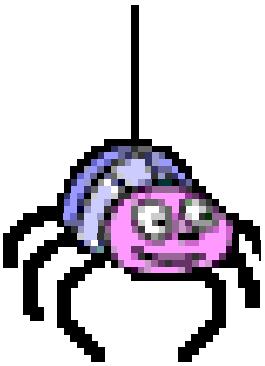
HOW to MIND MAP

If you have a strong visual &/ spatial component to your intelligence and your memory Mind Mapping could prove to be a very powerful tool for you.

There are numerous different methods but they're all based on there being a hierarchy of information and that the information is linked.

The two main distinctions are:

SPIDER DIAGRAMS & PYRAMIDS



The only significant difference between these two is that: in the spider diagram the main idea goes in the centre (and your ideas radiate out), whereas in the pyramid diagram the main idea goes at the top (and your ideas rain down).

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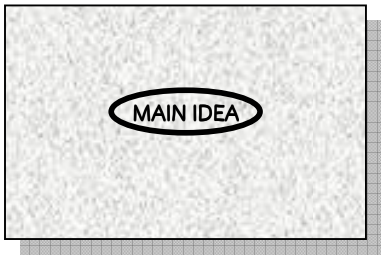
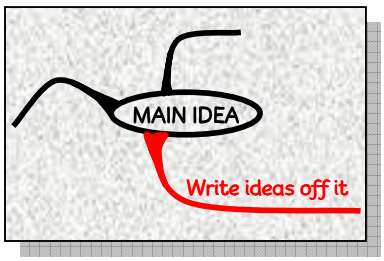
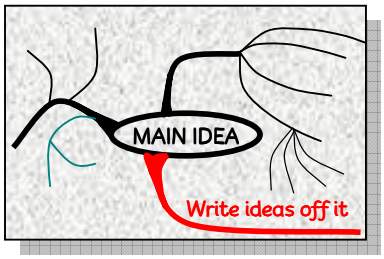
SPIDER DIAGRAMS: The methods you can employ may vary according to whether you're using computer software (e.g. Inspiration) or Mind Mapping by hand, and what appeals to your sense of the aesthetic.



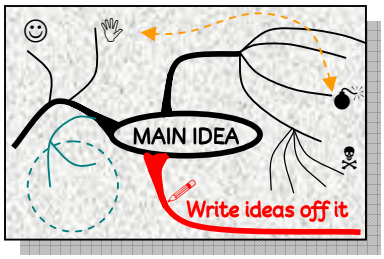
★ If you're using Pen and Paper, Tony Buzan's method is probably simplest and most appropriate: Firstly, turn your page round by 90° and place your main idea centrally.



★ For main topic areas, draw lines that radiate from the main idea (play around with line thicknesses and colour). Write on the lines and use key words rather than whole sentences.



★ Add subtopics to your main topics to however much detail you need, but remember that mind maps are good memory triggers so you probably won't need as much detail as normal notes.

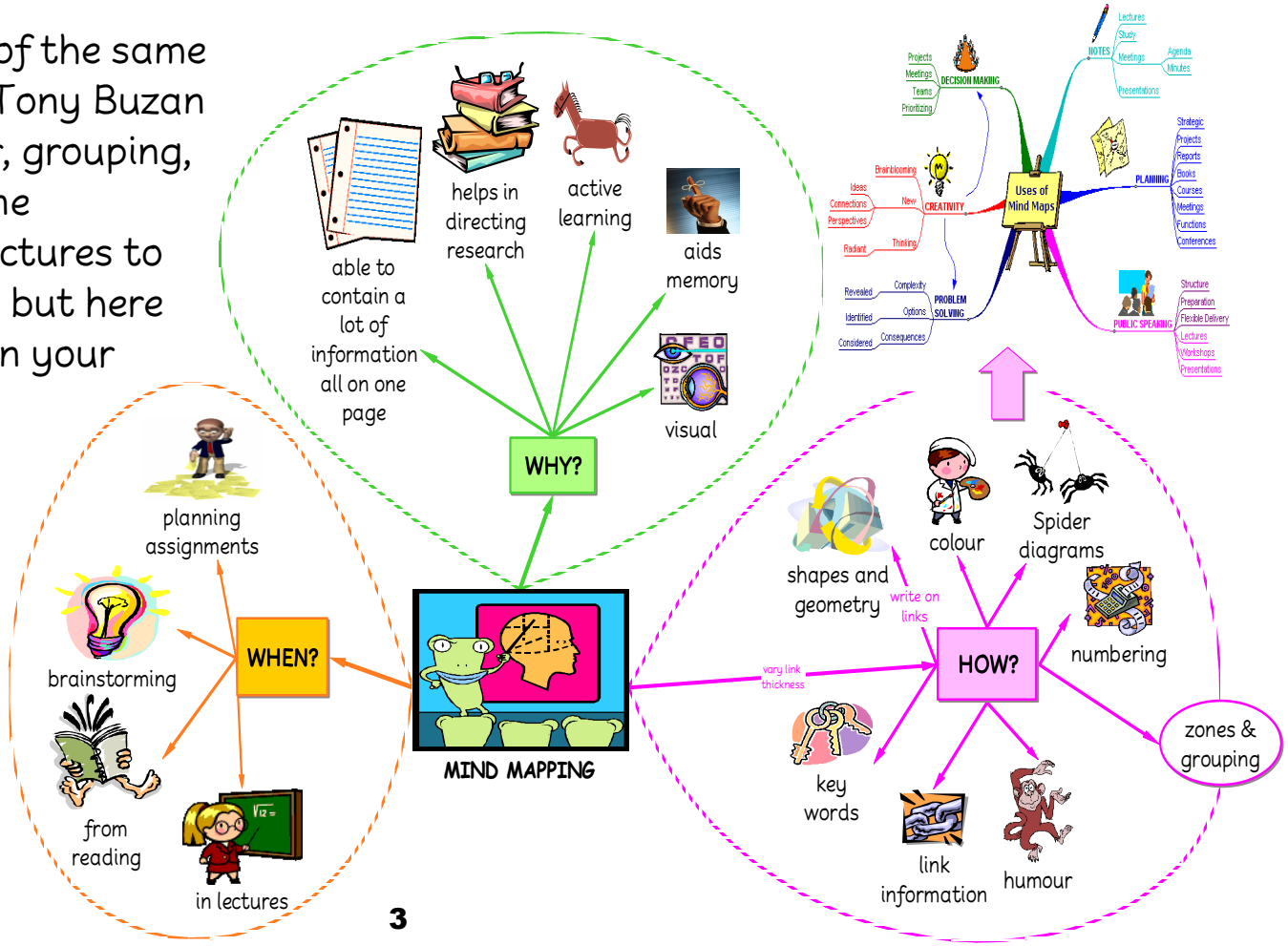


★ The final touches include drawing links between ideas, grouping ideas and including pictures that will act as memory triggers.

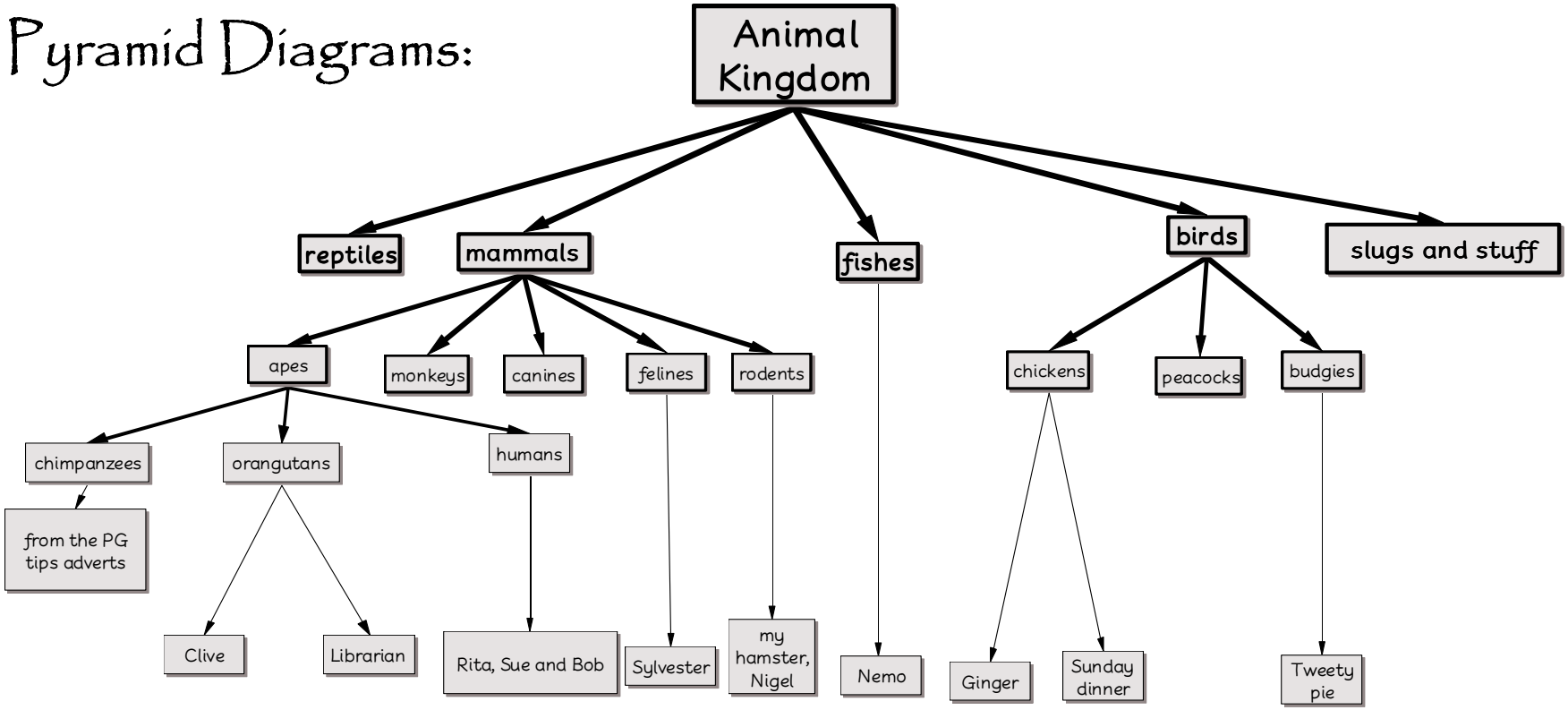
If you are using Inspiration, or just prefer its style, you can produce mind maps more like this

Here you can see many of the same features as used in the Tony Buzan version (i.e. use of colour, grouping, playing with different line thicknesses and using pictures to act as memory triggers) but here there's *more* emphasis on your pictures/bubbles rather than you writing that information on the links.

(in the top right hand corner you can see an example of a Tony Buzan style mind map)



Pyramid Diagrams:



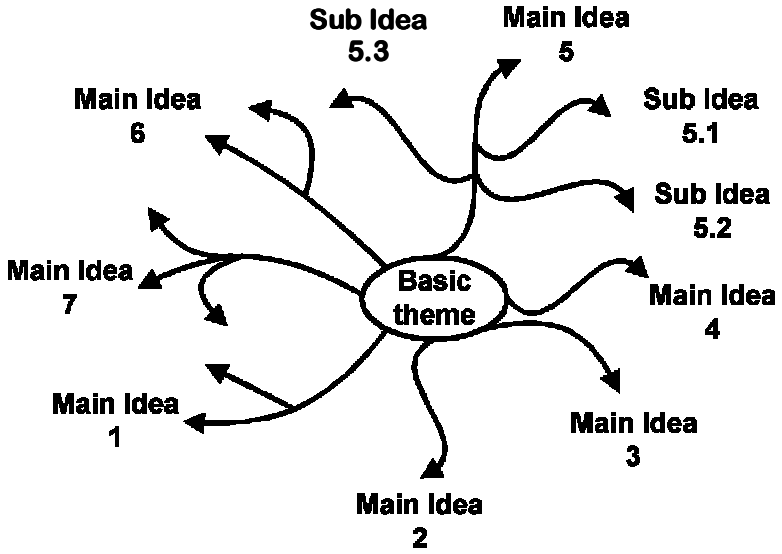
With pyramid diagrams you can use all the same techniques as with spider diagrams but you can pay more attention to hierarchy than before. As a consequence, it appears much more structured and this can prove invaluable when paragraphing.

HOW TO TURN YOUR MIND MAPS INTO LINEAR NOTES

If you're planning an assignment you may need to order your ideas, prioritising them and putting them into a logical order: this will help you express your arguments to the reader.

There are three main things you can do at this point:

1. You can rearrange your mind map so that if you go round it clockwise (or anticlockwise) it follows a logical order.
2. you can number your points and your sub-points



3. You can convert them into a linear plan, e.g.

<u>Basic Theme</u>

Idea 1
sub idea

Idea 2

Idea 3

Idea 4

Idea 5
sub idea 1
sub idea 2
sub idea 3

etc.