

A specific type of memory called a flashbulb memory is something one does not easily forget and can remember over 95% of every detail even years later. The reason for this is because the memory was the result of a very unusual event combined with strong emotional associations.

For example, I can specifically recall three tragedies and where I was the moment I either found out about it or lived it. I was in 7th grade in Sister Eileen's homeroom class when I was told about the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland. Another flashbulb memory I easily recall was the explosion of the spaceflight Challenger and it's crew. I was in 4th grade in Mrs. Alside's class and remember President Reagan speaking on TV that day. Then of course there is 9/11 in 2001. I was in my first year of graduate school. As I stood on Fifth Ave and 10th Street I watched both towers go down and I can tell you about every person around me that I talked to as the F-16's flew over my head in Union Sq. For about a year and half at 4:30pm the same smell of electrical fire was present as I walked into the rotating doors of the New School entrance on 10th St. For some reason the wind blew up from the south at that time every single day.