



# MASTERING VCR FEATURES FOR IMPROVED VIDEO INSTRUCTION

Using a video cassette recorder (VCR) is as simple as using an audio tape recorder or answering machine. With a little practice, a teacher can manipulate a television program in an interactive way that creates a powerful learning tool for the classroom.

- **REMOTE CONTROL:** Allows freedom of movement, flexibility, ease of control, and adds a more polished approach to the interactive use of the technology. If available, it is strongly recommended that teachers use the remote control device while teaching with video resources. Note: Some VCRs only have controls and functions that can be used from the remote control; there may be no buttons for these options on the VCR itself.
- **PAUSE/FREEZE FRAME:** Stops the program at one frame. The pause button is great for interactive learning; it can be used to examine a microscopic specimen, dramatic elements, or a dance position. To protect the tape, do not pause for more than one or two minutes. This will lengthen the life of the tape. (Note: A four-head VCR gives a clear still picture; a two-head VCR does not.)
- **FRAME ADVANCE/SLOW MOTION:** Moves the program slowly, one frame at a time. Try this feature for action sequences; from a chicken hatching out of an egg to a computerized depiction of cell division. Use a high quality tape that has not been taped over many times; taped-over programs might show through during slow viewing.
- **SEARCH/FORWARD & REVERSE:** Moves the program in the direction you choose. This function can be used either during previewing or segmented viewing to return to some point or skip over what you don't want to show. For speedy searching, don't use this function while the tape is playing. Press **STOP** first. To view the

sequence, press **SEARCH FWD** or **REW** while playing the tape and you can talk while you do it because there is no sound. (Note: Some machines only continue the search if the button is pressed.)

- **MEMORY & RESET:** Gets instant replays of important sections of a program without searching for the starting point. Try this simple exercise, using a program you are familiar with:
  1. Push **MEMORY** button on (an M may appear on the counter display).
  2. Start the program. Play it to where you might want to return to if you were teaching a class.
  3. Push the **RESET** button on the counter; it should read 0000. Allow the tape to continue playing for at least two more minutes.
  4. At the end of the program (or whenever you choose to stop it), press **REWIND**. The program returns to your selected point 0000.
  5. Play again. The program begins at the point you chose to replay.
  6. **REWIND**. Once again, program will return to 0000. Try three or four times.

*Note: For most VCRs, this feature works for fast forward as well as rewind. For example, if you wanted to replay the first and last 3 minutes of a program, set the memory and reset (0000) at the beginning of the last segment to be shown. Rewind to the start of the program. Play the first 3 minutes, stop, fast forward (the tape will stop at 0000), and play the last 3 minutes.*

The above information was obtained from TVOntario and KQED sources.