

Alphabet

Lesson stage:

Opening, Reflecting

Language skills:

Writing

Students write down as many words as possible related to different letters of the alphabet

Details

Amount of persons:	Any
Preparation time:	None
Time in lesson:	5-15 minutes
Material:	None

Preparation

None

Procedure

Students write down a list of a-z in their notebooks.

The teacher provides a topic and sets a time limit. Students write down as many words as possible starting with different letters related to the topic.

Afterwards, students share the words found to try and complete the entire alphabet

Notes

- Competition element: Points can be rewarded for originality, in case students find words no one else has.
- This activity shows how much students have learned language wise around a certain topic or subject. This is very motivating for students.
- A time limit of 1 or 2 minutes is enough. Any longer and students will stop writing because they cannot come up with more words.

Describe in your own words

Lesson stage:

Opening, Applying, Reflecting

Language skills:

Writing, Speaking

Students describe a word mention in their own words

Details

Amount of persons: Any
Preparation time: <2 minutes
Time in lesson: 5-10 minutes
Material: None

Preparation

The teacher has to think of the words that need to be described. These can be topic specific or key phrases of the content discussed.

Procedure

The teacher asks students to describe certain phrases in their own words.

Notes

- To make this activity more challenging the teacher can limit the words used, either by setting a maximum or a set amount.
- To promote speaking the teacher can ask students to discuss the words together before coming up with a description.

Homework presentation

Lesson stage:

Applying

Language skills:

Writing, Speaking

Students present homework to each other or the group

Details

Amount of persons:	Any
Preparation time:	<1 minute
Time in lesson:	10-15 minutes
Material:	None

Preparation

The teacher thinks of a homework problem that needs to be discussed.

Procedure

Students discuss homework for a certain period of time. During this time, they can ask the teacher questions.

When the time is up, the teacher shares one assignment students have to explain to each other (or the entire group).

Students get an additional minute to think of the best way to explain this specific assignment, after which the teacher randomly selects a student.

Notes

- Can be used to have students explain a homework problem to each other in pairs.
- If used in a plenary setting, the other students can be given tasks like 'think of a question about this assignment' or 'what feedback can you give related to the use of language?'

Scan the chapter

Lesson stage:

Opening, Applying

Language skills:

Reading,, Writing

Students scan a chapter or text to identify possible difficult words

Details

Amount of persons:	Any
Preparation time:	None
Time in lesson:	5-10 minutes
Material:	None

Preparation

None

Procedure

Students read through a new chapter, text or other material and identify words they find difficult. They make a list of these words to keep track of during the time this topic is discussed and write down descriptions behind the words whenever the words are discussed in class.

The teacher can occasionally ask students to check if there are any words on their word list not yet filled out.

At the end of the chapter or unit, all words should have a description.

Notes

- Students can also be asked to write down a translation, but by asking them to describe it in their own words they will remember the words better and find it easier to put them into context.
- This activity is focused on the individual language acquisition of students and the different lists of words can differ a lot. That is not a problem.
- This activity can be combined with PIF's (Personal Idiom Files) to create cross-curricular word lists.

Word to Sentence

Lesson stage:

Reflecting

Language skills:

Writing

Students create a sentence containing two or more words provided by the teacher

Details

Amount of persons:	Any
Preparation time:	<2 minutes
Time in lesson:	5-10 minutes
Material:	None

Preparation

The teacher thinks of two words that are related to the topic of that lesson.

Procedure

The teacher shares the two words and asks students to create a sentence containing the two words. The meaning of the word needs to be clear in the sentence.

Notes

- Instead of only two words, multiple pairs of words might also be shown, allowing for a certain level of differentiation for students.
- This activity can also be student generated, where students think of phrases to combine. Afterwards the choice of words can be discussed.