

# Doing a word search activity on WhatsApp

## Introduction

In this activity, you will learn how to create a word search activity and deliver it to students using the WhatsApp application.



This activity can be used independently, or you can use it as part of a lesson to find out what words students already know.

## Tech tip

This activity uses three different technologies.

- A free word search puzzle creator from: <https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/word-search>
- A free screen capture tool from: <https://www.screencastify.com/>
- The free mobile and desktop communication app WhatsApp from: <https://www.whatsapp.com/download>

This activity has been designed for the WhatsApp messaging app. The activity can be used synchronously during a live teaching session.

WhatsApp is a very powerful free application that you can download onto your mobile device and/or laptop computer. The application supports a number of forms of synchronous and asynchronous communication, including text, and audio messages. You can also share documents, images, audio files and videos that you upload. WhatsApp enables communication between groups as well as individuals, and can even support synchronous voice and video calls.

WhatsApp is also very light on connectivity, so it is very popular among mobile users in rural areas where access to connectivity is limited.

**Webinar time reference:** 07:06 - 07:35

**Level:** Any level. WhatsApp users should be 16 or older.

**Time:** 15 – 20 minutes, depending on how many words you want the students to learn.

**Aim:** To develop students' vocabulary knowledge.

### Preparation:

- Create a group on WhatsApp and add your students to it.
- Choose the words you want your students to learn or revise.
- Go to: <https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/word-search> add your words and create a puzzle.
- Use a screen capture tool (<https://www.screencastify.com/>) to make an image of the puzzle. Note: Alternatively, you can produce a word search activity on paper and simply take a picture of it with your phone's camera.
- Create a document with the list of words and their definitions (along with any additional information such as pronunciation you would like your students to know).
- Create a screenshot of your document.

### Procedure

- Ask your students to post a 'hands-up' emoji to show you that they are ready to start the lesson.
- Post the image of the word search to your group.
- Ask your students to type any words they can see in the word search puzzle.
- Once your students have typed all the words, ask the students to try to type in the definitions for each word.
- Next, post the image of the answer sheet with the definitions, so the students can check their answers.
- Finally, you can post a recording of yourself saying each of the words so that your students have an audio record of the words. If you want to check their pronunciation, you could also get the students to record the words and post them back.

## Additional resources:

### Teaching on WhatsApp

- This guide provides instructions on how to design and deliver an interactive training course through the WhatsApp messaging platform. Drawing on the Grassroots' pilot teaching leadership and storytelling through WhatsApp, the document shares tips on pedagogy, participant engagement, and the technical aspects of launching a distance-learning course on WhatsApp.

<https://www.ictworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Grassroot-Whatsapp-Guide.pdf>

### Using mobile messenger apps to teach English remotely

- Using a mobile messenger app such as WhatsApp is one way to support the remote learning of English and other subjects. This is especially useful when learners or teachers can only use the internet on their mobile phones or have limited data. There are a variety of ways that these apps can be used. You will need to think about the situation that most of your students are in and then design your approach and activities.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-mobile-messenger-apps-teach-english-remotely>

### Navigating language learning through WhatsApp during the lockdown

- Watch a recording of Abigail Ekangouo Awanga's session about using WhatsApp for learning at the IATEFL British Council World Teachers' Day web conference 2020.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/navigating-language-learning-through-whatsapp-during-lockdown>

### Using WhatsApp for interactive tasks

- As teachers, we are constantly looking for opportunities to exploit the learning potential of the tools and resources that our learners are already using. WhatsApp, or other free messaging platforms, are now almost ubiquitous in many contexts. This interactive workshop reports on a project designed to increase EFL learners' exposure to English outside class through a programme of tasks on the social media platform 'WhatsApp'.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-whatsapp-interactive-tasks>

### **Teaching pathways: Skills for remote teaching**

- In this practical five-week course, you will develop the skills you need for remote teaching and reflect on how they relate to your learners' learning. You will learn about different approaches to remote teaching and consider what factors make the transition from the physical to online classroom successful.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/teaching-pathways-skills-remote-teaching>

### **Remote teaching tips**

- This publication offers a range of practical tips and advice for remote teaching in all contexts.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/remote-teaching-tips>

### **Getting started with online teaching**

- Many classes and school systems all over the world are taking steps to offer lessons online. However, stepping into the digital world overnight can be challenging for many teachers. This guide is useful for teachers and teacher educators who have little experience of online teaching and need some advice on where to start.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/getting-started-online-teaching>

### **Lesson planning for teaching live online**

- While there are many similarities between face-to-face lessons and virtual lessons, there are a lot of differences too. Take a look at these ideas for structuring live online lessons.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/lesson-planning-teaching-live-online>