



Brainstorming a story

Introduction

This activity is designed to get students brainstorming vocabulary that they already know and using the words to create sentences or stories.



This is a simple activity that works online or in the physical classroom, and it encourages students to think divergently and work collaboratively.

Webinar time reference: 36:49 – 39:20

Level: A2+ Any age

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Aim: To develop students' creative thinking and use of vocabulary.

Preparation:

None

Procedure

- Give students a shape or colour to think about.
- Put the students into groups and ask them to brainstorm as many things as they can think of that are the shape or colour you suggest. Give them a time limit of 5 – 10 minutes.
- When they have finished, put them into pairs from different groups and ask them to share and compare their words.





- Next, ask the pairs to create a story using as many of the words as possible. Note: They could create the story orally using the words as prompts or write the story.
- Ask the pairs to change partners and tell their new partner their story.
- Listen while they tell their stories and try to make notes of sentences or phrases that you really like.
- Tell them to thank their partner for the story and tell them something they liked about it.
- Give the students some feedback and tell them about the sentences you liked.
- Ask for volunteers to tell their story to the group.

Variation:

• With lower levels you could just ask them to create sentences, rather than a story, then they could try to group the sentences into short poems. You could ask them to trade some sentences with another pair to help them create their poems.

Additional resources

Thumbprint stories

 In this activity, learners make a thumbprint story about a holiday using a blank cartoon grid and an ink pad. Learners will practise regular and irregular past simple verbs and holiday vocabulary.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/thumbprint-stories

Star stories

 In this lesson, learners read about two stories about dark constellations told by indigenous peoples.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/star-stories

One word stories

• This is a simple activity where each student adds a word to create a group story.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/one-word-stories





True / false stories

• This speaking activity is very effective for practising telling stories and learning fascinating things about your students.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/true/false-stories

Writing ELT stories for primary

• In this article, experienced writers Katherine Bilsborough and Cheryl Palin discuss their strategies for writing stories for primary and offer some advice to anyone wanting to start.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/writing-elt-stories-primary