

Starter Activities

for the English classroom

ALLITERATION

Work with a partner to invent a class register where every pupil's name is alliterative.

eg: Freddie Forester

Millie Moonbeam

Can you find a name for every letter of the alphabet?

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

here

hear

allowed

aloud

practise

practice

advise

advice

they're

there

Put an adverb, phrase or clause at the front of these sentences. Don't forget the comma!

I have forgotten my packed lunch.

Two girls arrived late for morning school.

The play was excellent.

We found a piece of metal in the beans.

Edmund was extremely disappointed.

Write out these sentences and underline the verbs

- 1 There are too many cooks in this kitchen!
- 2 She was thinking about her brother.
- 3 They heard the sound of running water.
- 4 Karen just stood there laughing.
- 5 Blue team had won the cup again.

INK WASTER

How much can you write in 15 minutes?
It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem
or anything that occurs to you. Choose
any subject you like.

CATEGORIES

How many nouns can you find for each letter of the alphabet for the category below?

VEGETABLE

Insert the 3 missing full stops and 3 capital letters

my dog is really funny whenever we switch on the television, he jumps up onto the sofa, pricks up his ears and starts panting he seems to like cookery programmes best

Collective Nouns

How many of these do you know?

A gaggle of.....

A school of

A flock of

A herd of

A swarm of

A murmuration of

A colony of

A murder of

A clutch of

A bunch of

A litter of

A pride of

A stampede of

A nest of

INK WASTER

How much can you write in 15 minutes?
It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem
or anything that occurs to you. Choose
any subject you like.

Punctuate this dialogue remembering to start a new line for each change of speaker

Who would like to read the next poem asked Mr Smith as he looked round the rows of eager faces. I will shouted Billie Thompson, jumping to his feet. You need to put up your hand, Billie, said Mr Smith. I think I'll choose Maisie instead.

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

RED

Put an adverb, phrase or clause at the front of these sentences. Don't forget the comma!

I ate two slices of her cake.

The carrots had boiled dry.

He began to lay the table.

Red is my favourite colour.

Her books were completely drenched.

Write out these sentences and underline the verbs

- 1 Patience is a virtue, they say.
- 2 Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
- 3 Does anybody here know Carlo?
- 4 When did they begin this exercise?
- 5 There are only two apples left.

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

DENTIST

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

COUNTRIES

Some of the punctuation in this dialogue is missing. Write it out correctly, remembering to start a new line for each change of speaker

How long do we have for this test asked Madeleine. Thirty minutes replied her teacher, looking at the clock. I'll set the timer and let you know when you have five minutes left.

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

fair	fare
pain	pane
rein	reign
maid	made
sight	site

CATEGORIES

How many nouns can you find for each letter of the category below?

ANIMALS

Add a suffix to turn these nouns into adjectives

beauty

wrath

care

speed

fancy

notion

comfort

rage

joy

fear

INK WASTER

How much can you write in 15 minutes?
It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem
or anything that occurs to you. Choose
any subject you like.

Write out these sentences and underline the verbs

- 1 Shall we paint a picture?
- 2 Put the eggs into a bowl and whisk them.
- 3 Don't forget the salt.
- 4 There is no need to panic.
- 5 The liquid has completely evaporated.

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

BIG

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

SPIIDER

CATEGORIES

How many nouns can you find for each letter of the category below?

FURNITURE

Punctuate this dialogue
remembering to start a new line for
each change of speaker

Good morning, Mrs Shaw, said Millie
as she came into the classroom
carrying her book bag. Good
morning, Millie, replied Mrs Shaw
cheerfully. Don't forget to put your
book bag in the box with all the
others.

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below?

CROSS (adj)

Insert the 3 missing full stops and 3 capital letters

last night, my sister came in really late my parents were really worried, as she had said she would be home before 9pm consequently, she has been grounded for a week

Put an adverb, phrase or clause at the front of these sentences. Don't forget the comma!

She began to laugh uncontrollably.

Two men were standing in the garden.

A number of items had been stolen.

We realised there was no time to lose.

Fred's writing is very expressive.

Add a Prefix to Make an Antonym

intelligent

appear

edible

possible

imaginative

respectful

obey

polite

patient

resourceful

Write out these sentences and underline the verbs

- 1 We are considering the issue seriously.
- 2 They did not think they would win.
- 3 They heard the sound of laughing.
- 4 Maisie was on the phone to her friend.
- 5 She has eaten all the sausages.

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

PLANET

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

**TOWNS IN THE
UK**

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

bare	bear
stair	stare
flare	flair
hair	hare
mayor	mare

Write out these sentences and underline the verbs

- 1 Who likes swimming?
- 2 You are really good at long jump.
- 3 My computer has crashed again.
- 4 Tell me the truth, please.
- 5 We did not know who had done it.

INK WASTER

How much can you write in 15 minutes?
It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem
or anything that occurs to you. Choose
any subject you like.

Some of the punctuation in this dialogue is missing. Write it out correctly, remembering to start a new line for each change of speaker

What have you got in your sandwiches asked Katie as they all settled down for their picnic lunch at the seaside. Sand exclaimed Bobbie. What about you? Me too laughed Katie, but mine's got a bit of ham and mayonnaise in it too.

CATEGORIES

How many nouns can you find for each letter of the category below?

INSECTS

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

WALKED

Insert the missing commas

Although most of my friends really hate tests I rather like them - especially when we are given multiple choice questions. When I did my mental maths test last week I managed to get full marks.

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes? It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

ILL

Insert the missing commas

Once upon a time there were three bears who although their breakfast porridge was cooked and ready for them to eat decided that instead of blowing on it to cool it they would take a walk in the woods. Of course that was just the opportunity that our golden-haired heroine was waiting for!

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

ATE

Insert the missing commas

In fairy tales and nursery rhymes the number three occurs frequently.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Three Blind Mice The Three Billy

Goats Gruff and the Three Little Pigs

are just a few examples but there are many more.

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

WELLIES

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

plain plane

feat feet

see sea

please pleas

night knight

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

SAID

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

BOYS' NAMES

Some of the punctuation in this dialogue is missing. Write it out correctly, remembering to start a new line for each change of speaker

James looked out of the window and saw his mother trudging up the path with two heavy-looking carrier bags. Where have you been he shouted. She looked up at him. I've just been for lunch at the the Ritz with Piers Brosnan she said. Are you just going to watch me struggle or are you going to come down and help

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes? It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

FRIDAY

Insert the missing commas

Three days ago my Aunt Marion came to stay. In addition to a huge suitcase she brought with her two spaniels her black cat and Cheeky her pet budgerigar.

CATEGORIES

How many nouns can you find for each letter of the category below?

MATHS

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

SAW (v)

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes? It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

SWIMMING

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

rain rein

sale sail

mail male

son sun

break brake

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

MOSQUITO

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

CAPITAL CITIES

Insert the missing full stops and capital letters

my friend alex wrote to me last
thursday he told me that three of his
friends had recently been suspended
from school they had been caught
cheating in their sats tests

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

GIRLS' NAMES

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

PARENTS

Some of the punctuation in this dialogue is missing. Write it out correctly, remembering to start a new line for each change of speaker

Give me a hand Flo said Claire as she began to unpack the box of china. Where did all this come from asked Claire as she unwrapped the first piece. Grannie gave it to me replied Flo but I don't think she realised that these flower designs went out of fashion fifty years ago. I think it's rather nice said Flo.

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

steak stake

write right

which witch

by buy

fort fought

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

FRUIT

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

their there

too to

cell sell

bawl ball

haul hall

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

ASKED

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

FURNITURE

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

FOOTBALL

Put an adverb, phrase or clause at the front of these sentences. Don't forget the comma!

My mother put the kettle on.

The ginger biscuits had gone soft.

I realised the cat had disappeared.

The team looked thoroughly dejected.

Martin's father was furious.

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

flee	flea
sort	sought
sew	sow
story	storey
threw	through

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

JOBS

Put an adverb, phrase or clause at the front of these sentences. Don't forget the comma!

I decided to wear my new red coat.

The vicar knocked loudly at the front door.

The children were playing chess.

His parents were not at all pleased.

The sailors were swabbing the decks.

CATEGORIES

Can you find one noun for each letter of the alphabet in the following category?

TRANSPORT

Write pairs of sentences using the following words

there	their
are	our
bought	brought
rein	reign
throne	thrown

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes?
It can be a story, or a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the word below.

LONELINESS

Some of the punctuation in this dialogue is missing. Write it out correctly, remembering to start a new line for each change of speaker

Oh no exclaimed Ted. I've forgotten the tickets. They had been in the queue for thirty minutes already and were just approaching the turnstile. How typical muttered Simon. Now what are we going to do. Only joking laughed Ted. I had them in my pocket all the time.

The Admiral's Cat

Find an adjective for every letter of the alphabet to describe the Admiral's cat. Follow the example.

Example: The admiral's cat is an admirable cat.

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes? It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the words below.

DANGER

Write out these sentences and underline the verbs

- 1 Where did you put the remote control?
- 2 We have already seen this film.
- 3 We had just finished the exercise.
- 4 She arrived in a blue sports car.
- 5 I would like the biggest one, please.

SYNONYMS

How many synonyms can you find
for the word below

LAUGHED

The sentences in this text have been jumbled up. Rewrite them in the correct order

Or perhaps there's a special ingredient in the batter. Whatever the reason, Jim seems to have got the knack. I don't know why it is. It's always much crunchier than I can get it. I love fish and chips. However they are never as good made at home as when we buy them from Jim's fish and chip shop. Maybe they use proper fat instead of oil.

FREE WRITING

How much can you write in 20 minutes? It can be a story, a few thoughts, a poem or anything that occurs to you. Your starting point should be the words below.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Put an adverb, phrase or clause at the front of these sentences. Don't forget the comma!

She began to sob uncontrollably.

Two women were waiting at the gate.

A number of things have changed.

We realised we had a puncture.

May's watercolour was extremely delicate.

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