BRITISH COUNCIL

TeachingEnglish: Motivating activities for primary

Workbook

Your reflective journal and additional resources

Foreword

Welcome to the workbook for Motivating activities for primary. Thank you for downloading it to continue your professional development with TeachingEnglish training.

In this workbook, you'll find learning resources, reflection prompts and practical support to apply new ideas from Motivating activities for primary:

In this course, you'll engage your primary learners with songs, games, chants and vocabulary activities that will make learning memorable.

You can use this workbook to develop your skills at any time, whether you're enrolled on the course or not. This workbook supports learning with colleagues, connecting with educators online, or working independently.

We're looking forward to learning with you.

The TeachingEnglish training team

Contents

What are TeachingEnglish training courses?

TeachingEnglish training courses for teachers offer self-study modules, live events, resources and discussions with over 85,000 teachers in our Courses for teachers Facebook community – and this self-study workbook. Get practical support and advice from course tutors and other teachers as you try out new ideas in your classroom.

Self-study modules

Each online course takes around 12 hours to complete and includes:

- an introductory Getting started module
- three core modules exploring a different aspect of teaching
- downloadable resource documents for each module, containing extra materials and links
- a certificate of achievement on successful completion of all modules.

You can revisit activities as many times as you like before the course ends. Find out more about our free self-study modules, what they cover, when they're available and how to enrol.

Courses for teachers community

Get the support you need to apply course ideas in your classroom in our supportive Facebook community. Learn with course tutors and other educators following our courses, access extra learning resources, join live events and participate in discussions.

Live events

Attend live events led by course tutors and expert educators, or watch the recordings in our Facebook group or YouTube. These sessions offer teaching ideas and a chance to ask questions and share your own insights.

Workbook

Use this workbook to record key course content, questions for the community, links to resources and ideas from extra materials or live events. You can save it online, print it or do both.

How can you develop your teaching knowledge and skills?

This workbook provides guidance and prompts to help you reflect on your teaching, identify useful changes, plan how to apply them and learn from the process. We hope you'll use this reflective cycle as part of your ongoing professional development.

Using this reflective cycle during your course will help you learn from experience and improve your teaching. It can deepen your learning by guiding you to apply new ideas, assess their impact and adjust your approach. Use it after lessons, when trying new strategies or when facing challenges. By making reflection a habit, you'll continue to grow as a practitioner and better support your learners.

Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

Use the following questions to guide you through the reflective cycle as you apply your learning from the course.

Description	What did I expect to happen? What actually happened? What was the result?	Description
Feeling	How did I feel before, during and after? How did my learners feel about what happened?	Feeling
Evaluation	What went well and what didn't? How do I know what worked or didn't work?	Evaluation
Analysis	Why did things turn out this way? What could help me understand the situation better?	Analysis
Conclusion	What did I learn? What could I have done differently? What skills or knowledge do I need to improve?	Conclusion
Action plan	What will I do next time? What support or resources will I need? When will I take action?	Action plan

Module one: Understanding vocabulary for primary

Overview

The aim of this module is to explore how to make learning vocabulary effective and memorable by considering a variety of strategies, activities and resources. You'll identify factors that make vocabulary more memorable, describe how to adapt vocabulary activities to different age groups, as well as use a variety of activities and materials to make vocabulary memorable.

Can you now ...?

identify factors that make vocabulary more memorable?
use strategies to make vocabulary more memorable?
give examples of how to adapt vocabulary activities to different age groups?
use a variety of activities and materials to make vocabulary memorable?

Show how confident you feel now about supporting primary learners with vocabulary by putting a mark on the cline. You can return to these objectives and move your mark as you learn and make changes to your teaching.

Not confident   Very confident

Consider vocabulary learning in the primary classroom. What happens where you teach? How does that affect you and your learners? How do you feel about it?

What would you like to happen? What do your learners need to improve in terms of learning vocabulary? What skills or knowledge might they need?

Further reading, teaching and learning resources

You can access the following resources at any time, whether the course and self-study modules are open or not.

Time (mins)	Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
3	Read	Definition: Vocabulary bank
5	Listen	Audio: Introducing vocabulary
5	Use	Activities: Vocabulary activities
10	Use	Activity (25 mins): Vocabulary bluff
10	Use	Activity (20 mins): Vocabulary box
10	Read	Article: Alternative ideas for teaching vocabulary
10	Read	Article: Presenting vocabulary
10	Read	Article: Six quick strategies to build vocabulary
10	Read	Article: Tips for teaching vocabulary
10	Use	Lesson plan (60 mins): Miko the monkey
10	Use	Lesson plan (45 mins): My family
60	Watch	Webinar: Top tips for teaching vocabulary

At TeachingEnglish, we're constantly updating and adding to the selection of free articles, publications, lesson plans, live sessions and webinars available for teachers. Check our TeachingEnglish website and TeachingEnglish YouTube for the latest resources.

Use this space to note teaching ideas that may help you and your learners with vocabulary.

Remember, you can get new teaching ideas from the self-study modules, further reading, teaching and learning resources, live events or the Courses for teachers community.

Module two: Understanding games for primary

Overview

The aim of this module is to explore the advantages of using interactive games in the primary classroom. You'll evaluate a range of games and watch several teachers in practice as they lead games in their classroom. You'll describe the advantages of using games in the primary classroom, identify some of the main issues with playing games and have strategies ready to prevent them, as well as plan how to use and teach games suited to your learners' needs.

Can you now ...?

describe the advantages of using games in the primary classroom?
categorise games in a couple of different ways?
identify some of the main issues with playing games?
identify strategies to prevent the main issues?
use games to focus on language chunks?
evaluate the purpose and suitability of a range of games?
plan how to use and teach games suited to your learners' needs?

Show how confident you feel now about using games with primary learners by putting a mark on the cline. You can return to these objectives and move your mark as you learn and make changes to your teaching.

Not confident   Very confident

Consider games in the primary classroom. What happens where you teach? How does that affect you and your learners? How do you feel about it?

What would you like to happen? What do your learners need to improve to benefit more from games? What skills or knowledge might they need?

Further reading, teaching and learning resources

You can access the following resources at any time, whether the course and self-study modules are open or not.

Time (mins)	Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
3	Use	Activity (30 mins): Mastermind
10	Listen	Audio: Games in the classroom
10	Read	Activity (10 mins): Circle games
10	Read	Article: Eleven benefits to playing games in the classroom
10	Read	Article: How to manage games in the classroom
15	Article	Article: How to use gameplay in the classroom
15	Read	Article: Two ways to bring games into your classroom
15	Use	Activities: Five quick and easy games for young learners
15	Use	Activity (20 mins): Games for question practice
25	Use	Article: Stirrers and settlers for the primary classroom
30	Use	Activities (5–15 mins): Classroom warmers activity booklet
60	Watch	Webinar: Computer games and language aims

At TeachingEnglish, we're constantly updating and adding to the selection of free articles, publications, lesson plans, live sessions and webinars available for teachers. Check our TeachingEnglish website and TeachingEnglish YouTube for the latest resources.

Use this space to note teaching ideas that may help you and your learners with games in the primary classroom.

Remember, you can get new teaching ideas from the self-study modules, further reading, teaching and learning resources, live events or the Courses for teachers community.

Module three: Understanding songs, rhymes and chants for primary

Overview

The aim of this module is to demonstrate how songs, rhymes and chants can be used to create motivating lessons and enhance children's learning. The module also looks at exploiting and adapting songs, rhymes and chants with different age groups. You'll describe how songs can enhance children's learning, describe how rhymes and chants can enhance children's learning, as well as identify different techniques for adapting and exploiting songs, rhymes and chants in the classroom.

Can you now ...?

describe how songs can enhance children's learning?
describe how rhymes and chants can enhance children's learning?
identify different techniques for adapting and exploiting songs, rhymes and chants in the classroom?
create actions to accompany a rhyme or chant?

Show how confident you feel now about using songs, rhymes and chants with primary learners by putting a mark on the cline. You can return to these objectives and move your mark as you learn and make changes to your teaching.

Not confident   Very confident

Consider songs, rhymes and chants in the primary classroom. What happens where you teach? How does that affect you and your learners? How do you feel about it?

What would you like to happen? What do your learners need to improve to benefit more from songs, rhymes and chants? What skills or knowledge might they need?

Further reading, teaching and learning resources

You can access the following resources at any time, whether the course and self-study modules are open or not.

Time (mins)	Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
5	Read	Article: Using songs
10	Read	Article: Kids and poetry
10	Read	Article: Learning Circle ideas checklist
10	Use	Activities: Using songs in the classroom
10	Use	Lesson plan (30 mins): The moon and the stars
10	Use	Lesson plan (60 min): At the funfair
10	Use	Lesson plan (90 mins): Homes and furniture
15	Read	Article: Oral storytelling in the classroom
15	Read	Article: Using music and songs
15	Use	Activities (30 mins): Creepy crawlies
60	Watch	Webinar: Building a course around picture books
60	Watch	Webinar: How can we use poetry in the classroom?
60	Watch	Webinar: Personal and creative storytelling

At TeachingEnglish, we're constantly updating and adding to the selection of free articles, publications, lesson plans, live sessions and webinars available for teachers. Check our TeachingEnglish website and TeachingEnglish YouTube for the latest resources.

Use this space to note teaching ideas that may help you and your learners with songs, rhymes and chants in the primary classroom.

Remember, you can get new teaching ideas from the self-study modules, further reading, teaching and learning resources, live events or the Courses for teachers community.

What are you going to change?

Now plan to change your teaching. Starting with a SMART goal will help you make the change and better understand the impact it makes.

A SMART goal is:

- **S**pecific (What exactly do you want to achieve?)
- **M**easurable (How will you know if it happened and the difference it made?)
- **A**chievable (Is it challenging but possible?)
- **R**elevant (Does it help you and your learners?)
- **T**imebound (When will you do it?)

Look back through this workbook and think about your learners. Choose one thing you'd like to be different about your teaching or classroom experience. Write it as a SMART goal.

Something I'd like to be different in my classroom or teaching is …

A change I can make that will help achieve that is …

I will need …

Some challenges might be …

To solve those challenges, I could …

What have you learned from making a change?

Make the change you planned in the last section, then reflect upon it. Sharing your answers to the following questions will guide you through the reflective cycle on page four.

The change I made was ... When I made the change, my learners ...

After making the change, I felt ... My learners felt ...

Some good/bad things about the change were ... I know this because ...

I think things happened this way because ...

The main things I learned from making this change to my teaching are ...

In future I will ... I will develop the skills and knowledge I need by ...

What can you do next?

Well done, you've made it to the end of the course! We hope you've found it useful and you'll join us on another very soon.

By completing this workbook, you've also followed a reflective cycle (page four) – congratulations! You can use the reflective questions on page 12 to help you to reflect on and learn from other changes you make in your classroom. We hope you will continue to do this and share your experiences, insights and questions with other teachers in your school or community of practice (for example our Courses for teachers community).

Do you have any questions about the course contents? Share them with our Courses for teachers community and get advice and feedback from our tutors and 85,000+ members. You can also:

Join another free TeachingEnglish training course.

Connect with course tutors and 85,000+ teachers around the world in our Courses for teachers community on Facebook.

Explore our framework for teacher knowledge and skills for inspiration, support and materials.

Access TeachingEnglish webinars for teachers and teacher educators.

Listen to TeachingEnglish podcasts for teachers.

Find out what else is happening on TeachingEnglish.