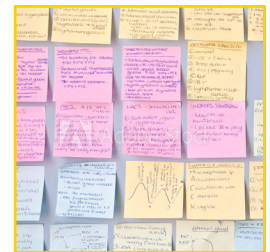


15 Interactive and engaging activities to use within the classroom



Resource Sheet

These activities are adaptable and can be used across all key stages. They are effective because they encourage students to think deeply, and they align well with Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction. They work particularly well as starter tasks or mini-plenaries.

While they are usually most effective without visual aids, you should use your professional judgement. Depending on the topic, some students may benefit from small hints or prompts.

We explore a wide range of strategies like these in our INSET days and training programmes. If you are reading this and would like to add more tools to your teaching toolkit — or you are a teacher seeking further CPD — you may wish to explore our courses. This includes our ***Advancing Teacher's Programme — Helping Teachers to Thrive***, a nine-week online Teaching and Learning course for international school teachers.

The next cohort begins on 23 February 2026, and further information is available on our website: <https://veema.co.uk/advancing-teachers-programme-helping-teachers-to-thrive/>.

1 Odd One Out

Which is the odd one out—Tourist, IDP, Refugee, Asylum Seeker?

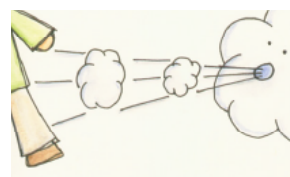
(Clue—there may be more than one)



2 Pictionary

Give students concepts/ideas/things to draw whilst others have to guess what they are.

Can divide group into teams to make a competition.



Alternative—Short list of concepts/ ideas and students to draw in books or on mini-whiteboard and then feedback their thinking/explanation.

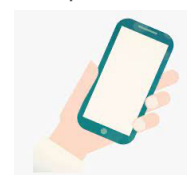
3 One Minute Writing Challenge

Use this as a 'Do Now' activity, plenary or simply as a technique to collect feedback on understanding by asking pupils to and produce a written response in only one minute.



4 Phone a friend

Allow students to nominate a fellow pupil to suggest an answer on their behalf, but they still must provide their own answer, and builds on what's already been said. You may wish to also extend this to a think/pair/share exercise.



What's The Question?

If this is the answer, then what's the question/s.

A: Mr T

(Q: Who is da' man?)



5

Dingbats-Say what you see

HEAD
HEELS

NKT
ION
HTG



6

What am I?

Could be a picture, or part of a picture, or clues.



7

What's been said?

Or What's being thought?

Choose a picture and ask students what might be being said or thought.

Could be relevant...



...or abstract

8

Tec Tools for Retrieval Practice

Set up retrieval activities for your pupils by using powerful tech tools such as Socrative, Quizizz and PollEverywhere.



9

Mystery Bag

Take a bag into the classroom that contains an object which has a connect to the lesson/scheme of learning. Pass it around and let pupils feel the object inside the bag. The first person to guess what's inside could be rewarded with a prize.



10

Describe and Draw

Partners sit back-to-back. One has an image, the other a pencil and piece of paper. The student describes the image and their partner who must try and draw it as accurately as possible.



11

Enable Table/Display Board

Create an area in the classroom that has up-to-date artefacts, videos, newspaper articles, blogs, exam papers etc. Use these resources to intrigue and stretch pupils' subject knowledge as well as setting specific activities for all students to work through this material.



12

Roll the Dice Challenge

13

Working in pairs, pupils take turns to roll the dice. Each number on the dice represents a revision task, the more varied the better.



Work Out What's Wrong

14

Provide an incorrect answer and ask students to explain why it's wrong both verbally and in writing by giving the correct answer.



Plurals Bring Progress

15

Most pupils can generate single word responses to questions but asking for multiple answers increases the challenge and stimulates thinking with no extra effort from teachers.

Singular	Plural
 ball	 balls
 egg	 eggs

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cpd@veema.co.uk

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