

Starter Activities

Welcome to our starter activities page.

Here you will find ideas for use in the classroom covering key stage 1 to key stage 4.

Starters and plenaries should be used to support and strengthen lesson objectives and learning outcomes.

Each activity is designed so that it requires little (or no) preparation and can be amended or adapted to suit the subject, or the students you are working with.

Most of the activities are designed to support subjects across the curriculum.

These activities can be modified for any subject, although we have categorised them for each age range. Scroll through the pages below to see sections for key stage 1 to key stage 4.

Key stage 1, 4 to 6 years old

The number game

Have the students attempt to count to 10.

Explain that there is no set order or time for calling out the numbers - anyone can call out the next number.

But, if they say the same number at the same time as someone else, the group must start from the beginning.

Once the group reaches 10, try to get to 20

Write everything you know about....

"Space"

(pick a topic linked to the curriculum) and ask them to write down all of the facts they know about it.

Create

Give the children some playdough. Click [here](#) for playdough songs.

Vocabulary circle

This is a great activity for the start of a creative writing or language lesson.

Gather everyone in a circle and give them a word.

Working around the circle, each person takes their turn to say a word that starts with the next letter of the alphabet, based on what the person said before them. So if you said 'cat' the next person would have to say something starting with 'D'.

The odd one out

Show them 3 things.

Ask the children which one doesn't belong there and ask them to explain why, it's good to have 3 items that could have different things that could be the odd one out.

For example you could show them a red square, yellow square and red circle - the odd one out could be based on shape and/or colour.

Guess the song

Hum the tune of a song and ask the children to guess what it is. Perfect for learning about music.

Nature

Show the children a picture of nature, for example, autumn trees. Ask them to explain what season they think it is and why they think that.

Feelings

Show the class a photo of a person and ask them to explain what they think the character is feeling and ask them why they think that.

What is going on here?

Show a series of photos, such as a sports activity, art activity, riding on bikes or playing with toy cars. Ask them to explain what is going on in the photos and what the people might be feeling.

Key stage 2, 7 to 11 years old

How many words?

Give the children a 3x3 grid containing different letters, and ask them how many words of 3 letters or more they can come up with, without using a letter more than once (unless it is in the grid more than once)

For example:

B	R	L
B	E	Y
E	R	U

Ask the class:

What is the longest word you can make?

Can you spot the 9 letter word?

Adjectives

Show the class a photo and ask them to list some powerful adjectives

What would you do?

What rules would you have if you were headteacher for the day?

The answer is...

Show the class a number - for example '36'.

Ask them to think of at least 10 questions to get this answer.

Or the answer is 'purple', what could the question be?

How many?

Show the class a 3 digit number, for example 792 and signs for plus, minus, divide and multiply.

Using some, or all of the digits and symbols, make as many different sums as possible in the time limit you set.

The class must provide answers for the sums as well.

For example $79 - 2 = 77$

Words starting with...

Pick a letter, and ask the class to think of as many things to eat or drink as they can beginning with that letter.

Descriptions

Show the class a photo and ask them to describe what is going on, and what they think could happen next?

Key stage 3-4, 11 to 16 years old

Homophones

"The actors took **there bough** at the end of **they're our** long play - **witch** was a very good play **two**."

Tell the class that the spelling errors are all examples of wrongly chosen homophones. Ask them to work in pairs to create a similar incorrect sentence for their partner to correct.

Common homophones to play with are:

- to/too/two
- hear/here
- witch/which
- they're/their/there

Create an advertisement/newscast

These can be based on what the students are learning in class. The students can present what they learned from the lesson (or a previous lesson) in a report.

Beginning with

Think of as many things (subject related) that begin with a letter of your choice.

The answer is:

Insert a subject specific answer, for example, in a science class tell the class:

"The answer is oxygen, what could the question be?"

How many

Using some, or all of the digits and symbols below, make as many different sums as possible in the time limit you set.

7 10 8.4 9 2.23
+ - x / =

The class **must** provide answers for the sums as well.

For example: $8.4 \times 9 = 75.6$

What's going on?

Choose a subject specific photo, for example people queuing up with a ration books and ask questions like: What is this photo showing?

- Where is this happening?
- What do you think they people are feeling?
- When do you think this happened?
- Why should we care about what happened in the past?

Apostrophe or not?

Give the class sentences and ask them to explain where the apostrophe's should go (if needed at all) and explain why. do the sentences need correcting?

- The dog scratched its ear
- Lets eat Grandma
- You're improving all the time
- If you fail to complete your homework youll receive a detention