

Starter Activities

Welcome to our starter activities pages.

Here you will find ideas for opening and closing activities 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 KS1, KS2 and KS3&4.

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.

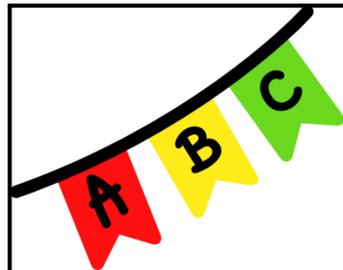


Anyone can call out the next number,

BUT if they say the number at the same time as someone else, the group must start over.

Once the group reaches 10, try to get to 20!

Vocabulary Circle



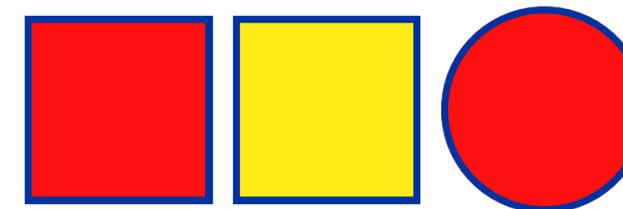
This is a great activity for the start of a creative writing or language lesson.

Gather everybody 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 Game

Show them 3 things. Ask the children to discuss which shouldn't belong there and why.



Guess the Song

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



Starter Activities

Age 4-6 years



Write everything you know about...



"Space"



(pick a topic linked to the curriculum)

Nature

Looks at this picture. What season do you think it is. Why?



Feelings

Look at this picture. How could this character be feeling?

Pick a character and perform as that character. Freeze.



Describe what is happening in the picture



Create

Give the children some playdough, click [here](#) for playdough songs!



Literacy **How many words?**

How many words can you make of 3 letters or more using the letters here?

B	R	L
B	E	Y
E	R	U

You can't use a letter more than once (unless it is in there more than once).
What is the longest word you can make?

Can you spot the 9 letter word?

Literacy **Adjectives**

Look at this picture and list some powerful adjectives



What would you do?

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

Why?



Maths **The answer is...**



Think of at least 10 questions to get this answer...

How many can you make?

Starter Activities

Age 7-11 years



Maths **How many?**

Using SOME or ALL of these digits and symbols, make as many different sums as you can in the time limit.



You MUST have answers as well.

For example: $79 - 2 = 77$

Literacy **Descriptions**

Describe what is happening in the picture
What might happen next?



The answer is....



What could the question be?

How many?

Think of as many things to eat or drink that begin with the letter...



Literacy

Homophones

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

All the spelling errors are examples of wrongly chosen homophones.

Now make up a similar sentence for your partner to correct.

Common homophones to play with:

to/too/two

hear/here

witch/which

they're/their/there



Literacy

Create an advertisement/newscast

These advertisements /newscast can contain content about what your students learned in class.

The students can present what they learned from the lesson (or previous) or the unit as a report

Beginning with...

Think of as many things in (insert subject) that begin with the letter:



The answer is...

Insert subject specific answer - for example:

Science: The answer is **Oxygen**



What could the question be?



Starter Activities

Age 11-16 years



Maths

How many?

Using SOME or ALL of these digits and symbols, make as many different sums as you can in the time limit.

7/10 8.4 9 2.23



You MUST have answers as well.

For example: $7/10 \times 9 = 63$

Literacy

Apostrophe or not?

The dog scratched its ear.

Let's eat, grandma.

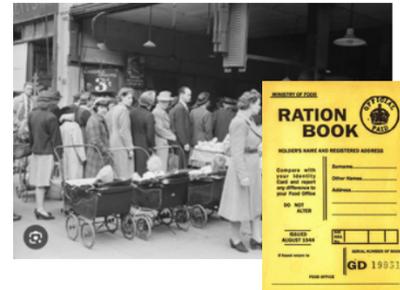
You're improving all the time!



If you fail to complete your homework, you'll receive a detention.

Use a picture, and ask questions like:

What is the scene showing? Where is this happening? What can we learn from this? Why should we care about what happened in the past?



Maths

The answer is...

36240

Think of at least 10 questions to get this answer...

How many can you make?

