

Activity Ideas: Vocabulary Brainstorm

VOCABULARY BRAINSTORM

Vocabulary Brainstorm works well as a Warm Up, serving as a means to get students thinking about the topic. It's a pre-step which activates pre-existing knowledge on the topic. Students work in pairs or groups and brainstorm words together.

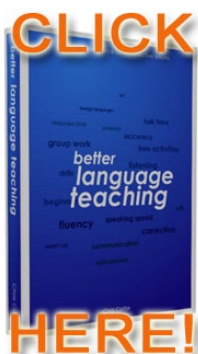
Step One: The teacher places students in pairs or small groups of three. If the groups are too large, then one or two students may only passively listen rather than actively volunteer words. This most often happens with weaker students placed in groups with stronger students.

Step Two: The teacher writes the topic or theme on the board. The topic or theme can focus the attention of the students. For example, if the students were to study the environment, then they could brainstorm vocabulary around global warming, pollution man-made threats to the planet, etc. to talk about the environment later.

For lessons with an accompanying target grammar structure, the words may then be used when introducing the grammar, when practicing the target structure, and of course in the conversations later in the lesson.

Step Three: Students work together and brainstorm vocabulary words. One student should write the words as everyone volunteers vocabulary for the list. Dictionaries should not be used, as you want students to brainstorm and share pre-existing knowledge. The teacher should allot three to five minutes for this step.

Step Four: The teacher may ask for students to say the words aloud as he writes them on the board. Alternatively, students can come to the board and write the words themselves. The teacher may also merge pairs/groups, with each pair/group presenting the information to one another. The vocabulary will be used and reused for subsequent steps in the lesson, so pairs/groups can even merge more than once to ensure everyone has an identical list of words.



If you liked this idea and want others, then take a look at my ebook, [Better Language Teaching](#). There are **100 activities** with more than **75 variations** for flexible, fun learning.

Have great classes!

Chris Cotter