

Session 1 - Writing

Secondary

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OUP Days 2014, Serbia



In this session

- **Reasons teenagers dislike writing**
- Areas of difficulty
- Practical activities



Reasons teens dislike writing

What would *you* say?

- They don't like using pens
- It's old-fashioned
- They lack real-life experience
- They lack strategies, skills and techniques
- Stressful associations
- ...



Reasons teens dislike writing

They don't like using pens

Dear John.
I ~~wrote~~ I'm happy to write you again. ~~Sorry for not~~
I'm sorry for not writing sooner, but I was
interested in
Gordon, so

~~My qualities~~ are I have got lots of
qualities; I'm hard-working, reliable,
and I'm also a liar, and that's a
good thing ⁽¹⁾ because you can learn trust me.
I'm able for an interview
anytime. If you say Monday 30³⁰ ~~AAA~~
(1) will be there. ~~also~~ ^{able} on Feb. 30.
The time to see me is in

Reasons teens dislike writing (by hand)

It's old fashioned



outdated
slow
inconvenient




important
prestigious
exciting

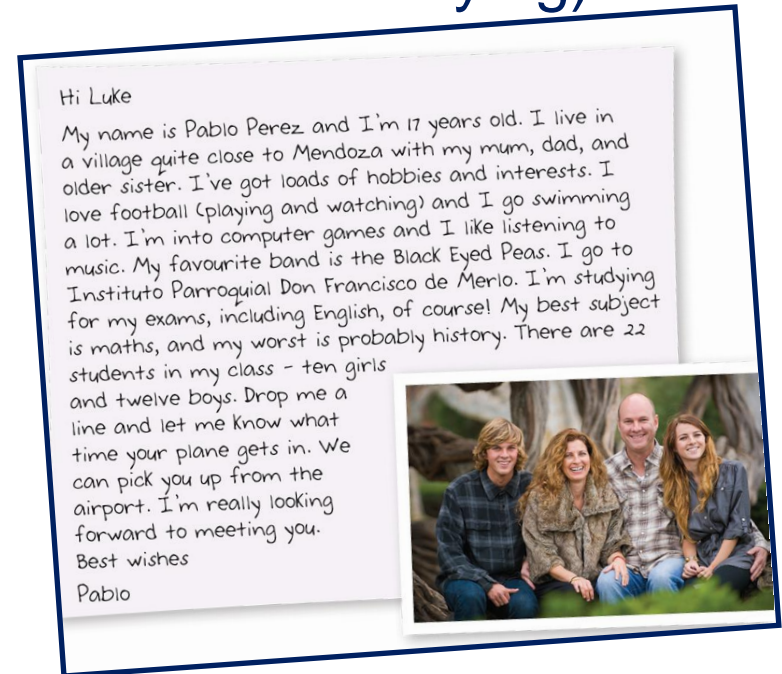
Reasons teens dislike writing

They lack real-life experience

What do teenagers write *IRL*?

(i.e. outside school, not including homework or studying)

- instant messages 
- text messages (SMS)
- emails
- uhhhhh....



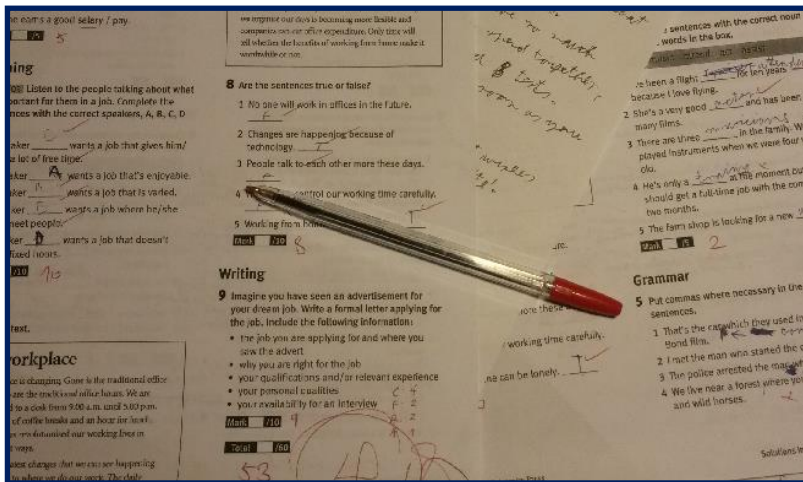
Reasons teens dislike writing

They lack strategies, skills and techniques

planning register
revising appropriate language
discourse management
paragraphs cohesive devices
drafting style

Reasons teens dislike writing

Stressful associations



Reasons teens dislike writing

What would *you* say?

- They don't like using pens
- It's old-fashioned
- They lack real-life experience
- They lack strategies, skills and techniques
- Stressful associations
- ...



- Reasons teenagers dislike writing
- **Areas of difficulty**
- Practical activities



Areas of difficulty

What would *you* say?

What causes the most problems for your students?



Areas of difficulty

- Getting started
- Generating ideas
- Planning
- Using appropriate language
- Drafting and revising



Areas of difficulty

Getting started



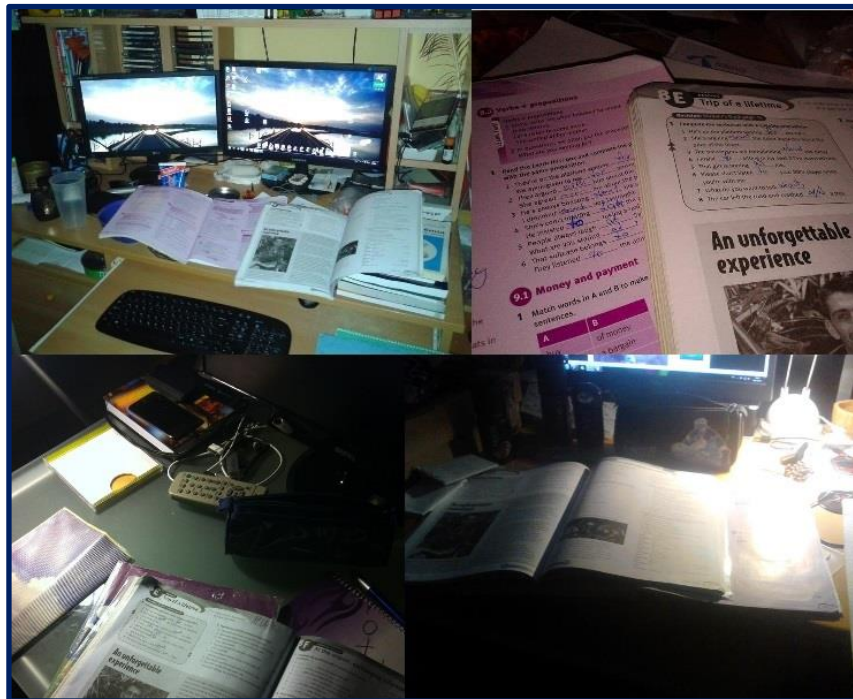
Not-corridor-work 😊



Me to Polar Bear Resistance League

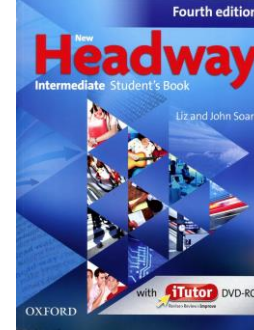
Post photographic evidence that you did 'homework' and not 'corridor-work'.

Upload a photo of your finished homework. In the background your home surroundings should be clearly visible.

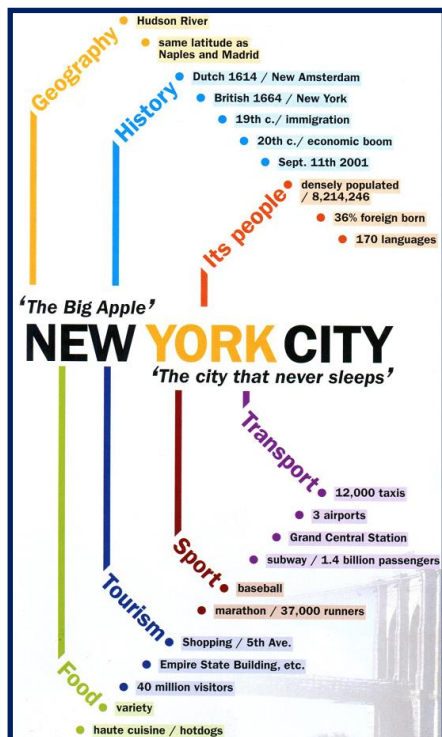


Areas of difficulty

Generating ideas



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brainstorm

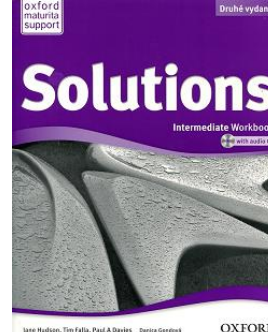
1 Write down everything you know about New York City.
Collect all your ideas as a class.

I have no idea about this topic. The teacher said to write about New York. I have nothing. I can't think. New York is a big city in the USA. Where? On the east side. Statue of Liberty, Manhattan, what else?

freewriting

Areas of difficulty

Planning structure



10G

WRITING Book review
I can write a review of a book

Preparation

1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

end identified main recommend set twist written

1 I _____ with the main character because he is a teenager.

2 It's _____ in Germany during the Second World War.

3 The _____ character is a student of art.

4 It was _____ by Charles Dickens.

5 There's a _____ at the end.

6 In the _____, the two lovers get married.

7 I would definitely _____ it.

2 Rewrite the sentences with nominal subject clauses starting with *what*.

1 all of the characters are looking for / success
What all of the characters are looking for is success.

2 really exciting / the setting

3 I loved / the way the story was told

4 the main character needs / a friend to help them

5 I really enjoy / reading on the train

6 this author is famous for / creating a twist at the end

3 Read the review. What does the writer like most about the book?

Writing guide

4 You have been asked by the editors of an English magazine to write a review of a book which has been given an award for the best book of the last decade. Remember to use paragraphs and nominal subject clauses.

Paragraph 1: Describe the author, the genre of the book and the characters.

Paragraph 2: Describe the general topic, main plot, and the setting.

Paragraph 3: Describe negative and positive aspects of the plot, acting, characters, etc.

Paragraph 4: Encourage or discourage the readers of the review to read the book.

CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you:

- ☐ written four paragraphs?
- ☐ included all the necessary information?
- ☐ written in an appropriate style?
- ☐ included the appropriate phrases from exercise 1?
- ☐ included nominal clauses?
- ☐ checked your work for mistakes?

Eragon is a best-selling fantasy novel written by the teenage author Christopher Paolini. It is the first in a series of four books called *The Inheritance Cycle*. The series tells the story of a farm boy called Eragon.

Eragon is a journey of experience, revenge, romance and betrayal. It is set in a land of mystery and magic called Alagaesia. Eragon is a normal teenager when we first meet him, although both of his parents are dead and he lives with his uncle on a farm. However, his life changes when he finds a dragon's egg on a hunting expedition. When the dragon hatches, Eragon becomes a Dragon Rider and the real adventure begins.

One of the strengths of the novel is the plot which holds the reader's attention from beginning to end. The main character is brave and likeable and he has some fascinating adventures. I loved the twist at the end.

What I liked most about the book was the relationship that *Eragon* has with his dragon, Saphira. The reader sees their friendship developing and by the end of the story they come to trust each other totally. I would definitely recommend *Eragon* to all teenage readers, but especially to those who enjoy fantasy literature.

90 | Unit 10 • Be creative

Writing guide

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CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you:

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- ☐ written in an appropriate style?
- ☐ included the appropriate phrases from exercise 1?
- ☐ included nominal clauses?
- ☐ checked your work for mistakes?

16 Professional Development

Planning a written review

Planning paragraphs

Par.1: a short summary of the plot

paragraph 1: my mother told me that, this book is exciting and I got it for Christmas
it's a crime story

Par.2: focus on one interesting scene

paragraph 2: it was about 10 people who went on an island for a holiday, but
it wasn't a calm, lazy holiday, it was a scary holiday. In the end, everybody
died except one person.

Par.3: give your opinion of the book

paragraph 3: I really enjoyed it. I couldn't put down the book.

Areas of difficulty

Using appropriate language



10G WRITING Book review

I can write a review of a book.

1 Read the review. Are these sentences true or false?

- The setting for the story is a beautiful lake.
- Stanley shouldn't be in a detention centre.
- The Warden has a secret reason for asking the boys to dig holes.

HOLES is a novel for teenagers. It was written by Louis Sachar and it was published in 1998. It's an adventure story about a group of boys at a detention centre in Texas. The detention centre is called Camp Green Lake and it's in the middle of a huge desert.

The main character is Stanley Yelnats, who has been sent to Camp Green Lake for a crime he didn't commit. Every day, the boys at the camp have to dig holes in the desert. They believe that the work is just punishment. What they don't realise is that the Warden at Camp Green Lake is secretly looking for treasure. One day Stanley and his friend Zero run away. Everybody thinks they will die in the desert. I won't give the ending away! What I will say is that the book keeps your interest right to the final page.

I really enjoyed the book for a number of reasons. I identified with the character of Stanley, who always tries to help his friend. The setting is interesting and unusual. But what I liked most was the plot. It's a gripping story and you just can't put the book down. I would definitely recommend it.

LEARN THIS!

Nominal subject clauses

We sometimes emphasise particular information in a sentence by putting it in a *What*-clause followed by *be*.
I really like adventure stories.
What I really like is adventure stories.
The ending made a big impression on me.
What made a big impression on me was the ending.

4 Read the *Learn this!* box. Find two sentences with nominal subject clauses in the review in exercise 1. Rewrite them as ordinary sentences.

5 Rewrite the sentences with nominal subject clauses starting with *What*.

- All of the characters are looking for happiness.
- The setting is really unusual.
- I loved the twist at the end.
- The main character really needs a holiday.
- I really enjoy reading classic novels.
- Stephen King is famous for writing thrillers.

GRAMMAR BUILDER 10.4: PAGE 126

6 Choose a book you know. Write notes under these headings. You can include any other important information.

| General information | Story and characters |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Title: | Where is it set? |
| Author: | Main characters: |
| Type of book: | What happens? |

Your opinion

Why did you like it? For example:
 It's funny / moving / exciting / gripping / interesting.
 It contains lots of interesting characters.
 I really wanted to know what was going to happen.

VOCABULARY BUILDER 10.3: PAGE 136

7 Read the writing strategy below. Write a review of 200–250 words. Use your notes from exercise 6 and include phrases from exercise 2.

WRITING STRATEGY

Remember to use the present simple to summarise the plot of a story or film.

CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you:

- ☐ included the information in exercise 6?
- ☐ used phrases from exercise 2?
- ☐ checked your word count?

2 How many phrases from the box can you find in the review?

Talking about stories

I identified with (a character) It's the story of ...

I liked the book because ... In the end, ...

The main character is (name) A film was made (of the book)

It was written by (author) There's a twist at the end.

It's a (type of story) I would definitely recommend it

It's set in (place)

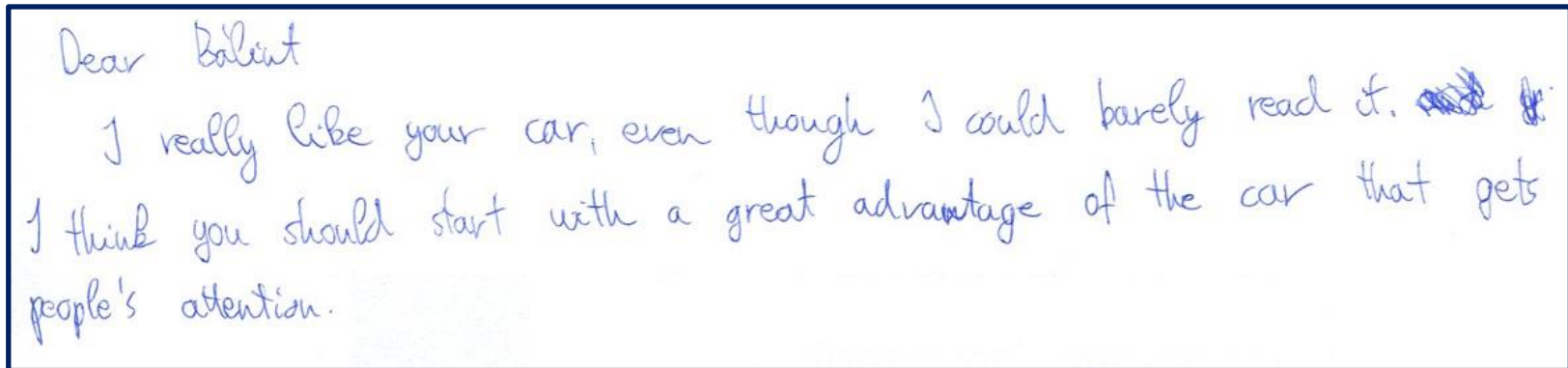
3 Complete the text about *The Lord of the Rings*. Use the phrases from exercise 2.

***The Lord of the Rings* is a fantasy story.** ¹ _____
 J. R. R. Tolkien. ² _____ an imaginary land called 'Middle Earth', and ³ _____ a group of hobbits who have to destroy a magic ring. ⁴ _____ called Frodo. ⁵ _____ they succeed in destroying the ring. A few years ago ⁶ _____ starring Orlando Bloom. It's a great book and ⁷ _____!

Areas of difficulty

Drafting and revising

→ Get students to comment on each other's work at the re-drafting stage



Dear Balint

I really like your car, even though I could barely read it. ~~and~~ it.

I think you should start with a great advantage of the car that gets people's attention.

Areas of difficulty

- Getting started
- Generating ideas
- Planning
- Using appropriate language
- Drafting and revising
- **Any others?**



In this session

- Reasons teenagers dislike writing
- Areas of difficulty
- **Practical activities**



Practical activities

Freewriting

How freewriting works:

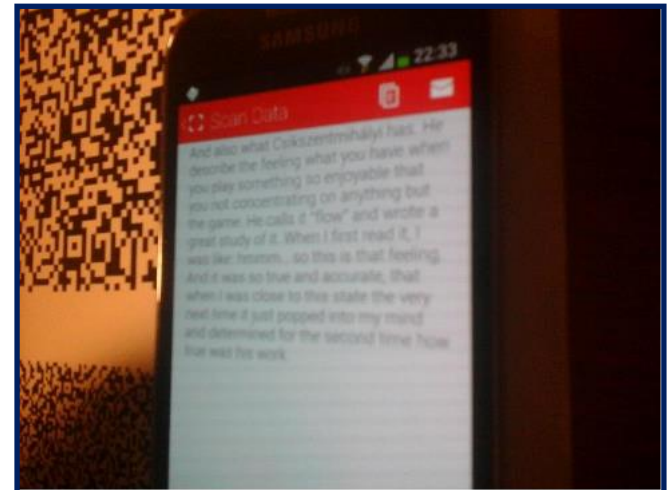
- When you get the topic, start writing.
- Don't stop.
- Keep your pen on the paper.
- Write whatever comes into your head!
 - Your topic:



Practical activities

Using technology

Do you get teens to use technology to complete writing tasks?
How?



Practical activities

Planning only

The image shows a page of handwritten notes and a list of four activities. On the left, there are notes on lined paper with a central mind map. The mind map has a central node 'ST' (likely 'Street') with branches to 'kindergarten' and 'bunglass'. 'kindergarten' is further connected to 'Living on my street', 'chatting with kids who knock on my door', and 'old ladies'. 'bunglass' is connected to 'busting condors late at night in front of its gate (but really!)', 'a grabbing my hammer if someone knocks late at night', and 'watching a gangster with muscular men, if they enters the garden gate without permission'. The main list of activities is on the right, numbered 1 to 4.

Living on my street
chatting with kids who knock on my door
old ladies
kindergarten
busting condors late at night in front of its gate (but really!)
a grabbing my hammer if someone knocks late at night
watching a gangster with muscular men, if they enters the garden gate without permission
bunglass

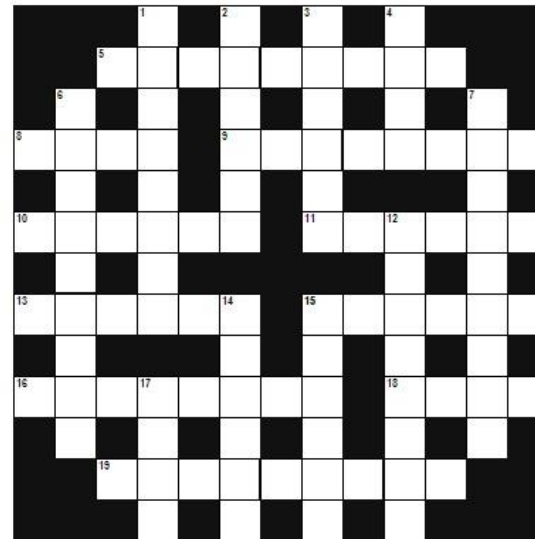
1. Describing an ordinary monday afternoon, it's maybe spring, birds are chirping, neighbours act as day usually do, kids the kindergarten is full
An ideal picture
2. Shows the darside, the kind lady from the first paragraph spies on you, kids are too loud, etc.
3. Collecting unusual/funny stories about the street, for example story of a burglary, etc
4. Summary with my opinion about living there

Practical activities

Going hybrid :)



Quick crossword No 13,537



Across

- 5 Do as you wish! (2,2,5)
- 8 Japan's highest peak (4)
- 9 Cold running drink? (3,5)
- 10 Member of a branch of Islam (6)
- 11 Extensive landed property (6)
- 13 Speaking faculty (6)
- 15 Roof straw (6)
- 16 Island part of Tanzania (8)
- 18 Wharf (4)
- 19 Stop being so stupid! (4,3,2)

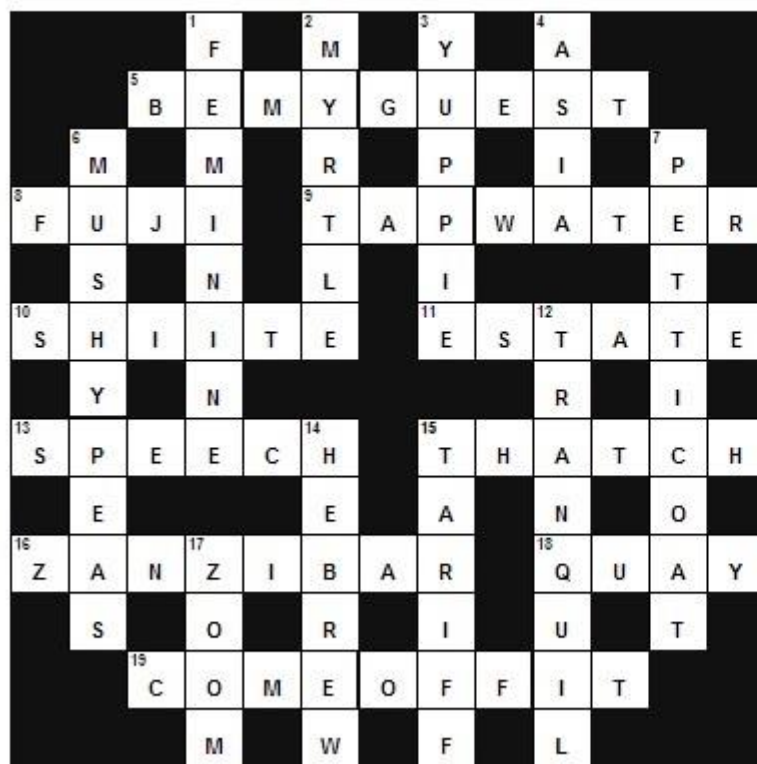
Down

- 1 Womanly (8)
- 2 Shrub with white flowers and aromatic berries (6)
- 3 Young upwardly mobile professional (6)
- 4 A is A (anag) (4)
- 6 Squishy green food (5,4)
- 7 Underskirt (9)
- 12 Peaceful (8)
- 14 Official language of Israel (6)
- 15 List of duties on imports or exports (6)
- 17 Type of camera lens (4)

Practical activities

Crosswords for vocabulary

Quick crossword No 13,537



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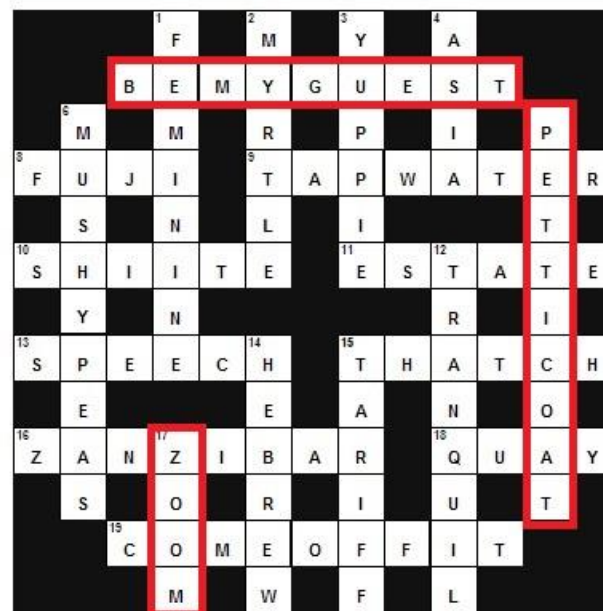
Practical activities

Compulsory phrases

Have you ever seen the youtube video called *Electrosidekickball*?
If you haven't, be my guest.

What is it about? Two teams
other, with a special ~~face~~ *face*
telling you. It's a zipper collar
the hands of the other team
time during (or not) the match
scene, let's zoom in on the p

Quick crossword No 13,537



Across

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- 8 Japan's highest peak (4)
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- 17 Type of camera lens (4)

Practical activities


Planning rubrics

1




Introduce the topic

2




What most people think

3




What most people forget

4



What you need to remember

5



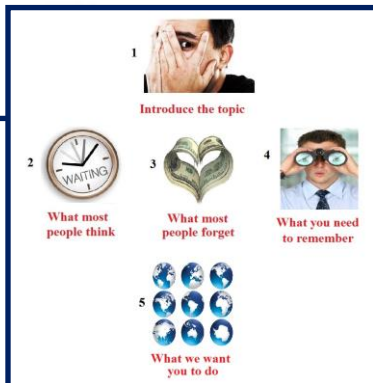
What we want you to do

Practical activities

Planning rubrics

My topic: Hungarian football

1. Most people think that Hungarian football is terrible.
2. Most people forget that they practice a lot.
3. What you need to remember: They don't play very well, but they earn a lot of money.



Practical activities

- Freewriting
- Using technology
- Planning only
- Going hybrid
- Compulsory phrases
- Planning rubrics



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Thank you!

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