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# Better Together

## Promoting Collaboration and Co-operation

Edmund Dudley

Budapest, 24 August 2017



# In this session

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- The benefits of pair-work and small-group work
- Activities for creating a motivating and inclusive environment

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- **The benefits of pair-work and small-group work**
- Activities for creating a motivating and inclusive environment

# Pair work and group work

What are the benefits?

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- Less anxiety for learners
- More involvement
- Greater activation of language
- Chances for consolidation and practice

# Pair work and group work

Any drawbacks?

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- Off-task behaviour
- Noise level
- Students use L1

# Pair work and group work

## Tackling the drawbacks

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- Off-task behaviour
  - Clear instructions and outcomes
- Noise level
  - Careful staging and signposting
- Students use L1
  - Report back in L2

# Collaboration

What do we mean?

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- Working towards a common goal
- Constructing knowledge together
- Combining different skills
- Individual contributions and shared outcomes

# Co-operation

What do we mean?

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- Getting help from others
- Thinking about learning in a new way
- Mutual improvement rather than competition



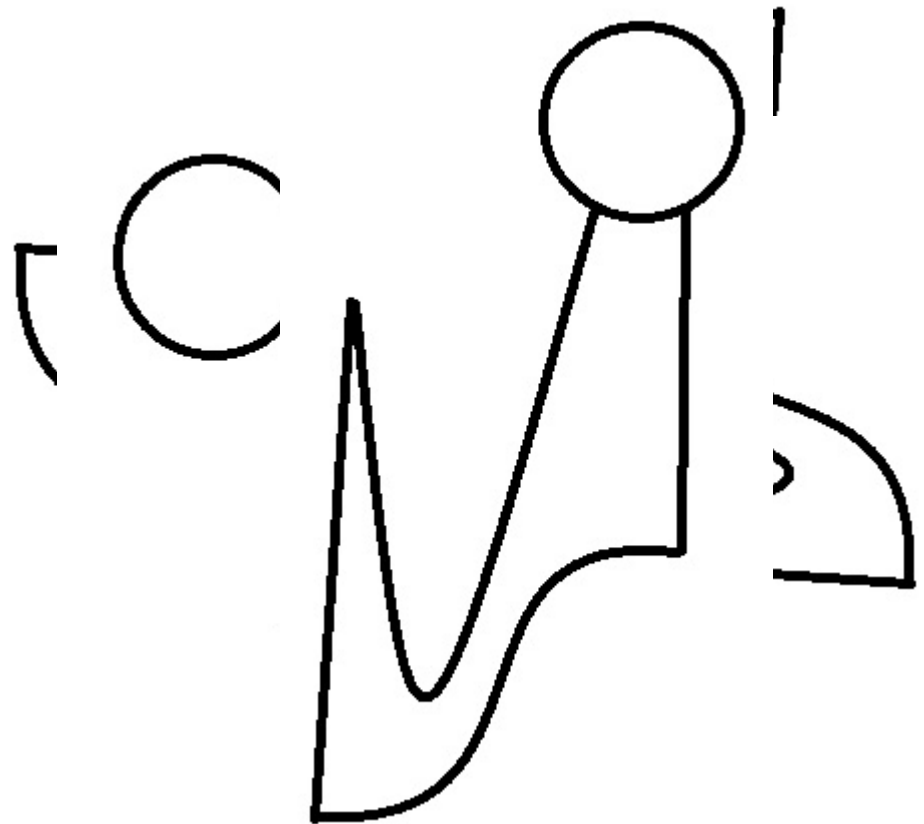
# In this session

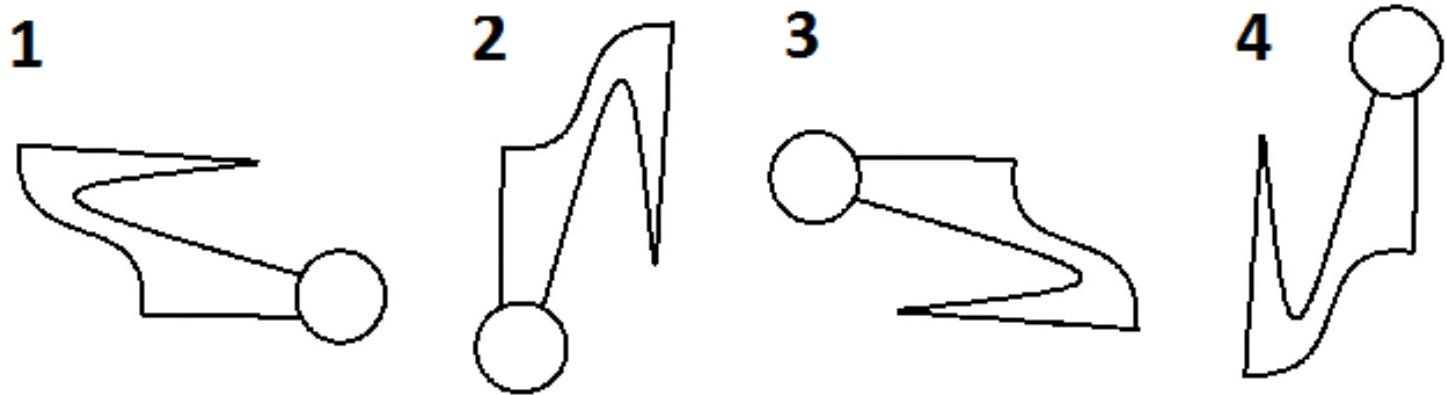
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- The benefits of pair-work and small-group work
  - **Activities for creating a motivating and inclusive environment**

# Inventive descriptions

## Abstract shapes

- Work in pairs/groups.
- Draw an abstract shape
- What does it look like?  
(Use your imagination)
- Rotate the paper 90°
- Repeat





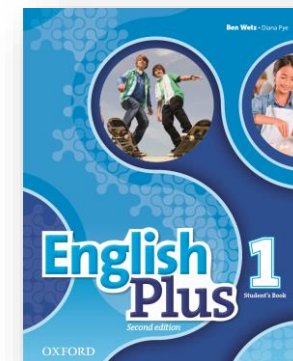
- Look at all the shapes
- Remember what you said
- Create a story that connects all four

Look at the picture for  
10 seconds.  
Memorise the items!



BANANAS!

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Did anyone notice the unusual word here? →

## How many items can you remember?

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Work in pairs

- Students write down what they remember in Eng/L1
- Provide time for them to translate L1 → Eng
- Check:
  - Start with whoever had the fewest
  - Others listen and check off what's been said
  - Continue until all the items have been said

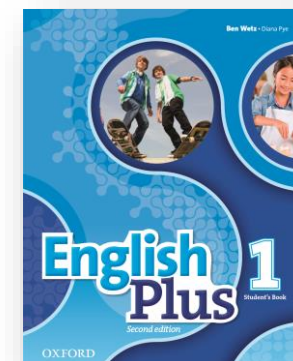


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# Pictures from words

## Collaborative task

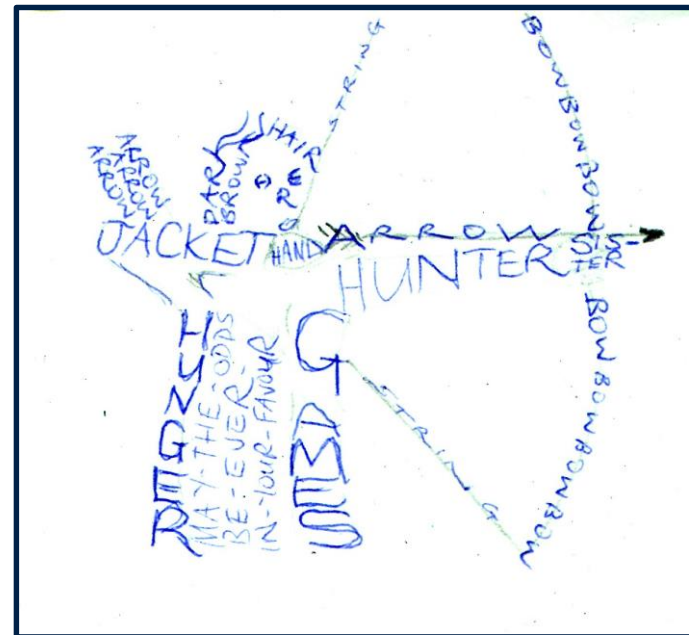
- On your own:
  - brainstorm words you associate with the topic of SUMMER
- In your groups:
  - Pool your words
  - Decide on an image
  - Create a picture from words



# Pictures from words

## Collaborative task

- Other examples...





# A team activity

- Planning stage
  - think, write, then speak
- Project stage
  - incorporate non-language skills
- Presentation stage
  - develop feedback and interpersonal skills



# A team activity

Think, write, then speak

Your task is to decide which **animal** is the best name for your group

- Work in a group of four
  1. ) on your own:
    - think about your preference
    - write down your choice of animal and some reasons
  - 2.) With your group:
    - share ideas
    - choose an animal for the group

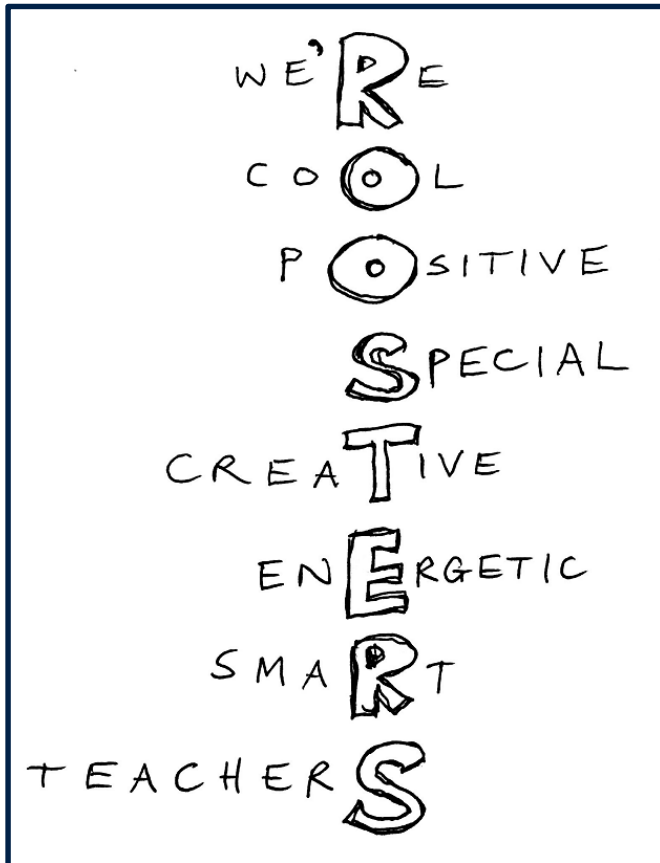


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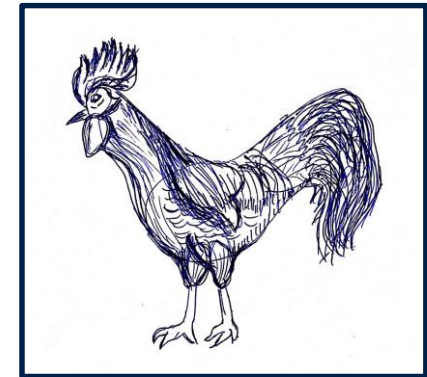


# A team activity

Incorporate non-language skills



- Make an acrostic for your group
- Draw a group picture



# A team activity

Develop feedback and interpersonal skills

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- Share your acrostic and picture with another group
- Take it in turns to speak
- Listen attentively to others
- Ask questions
- Give positive feedback

A blue-outlined speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom-left.

I really like the way you...

A blue-outlined speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom-left.

My favourite part is...

A blue-outlined speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom-left.

Who did the picture? It's great!

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