

Teaching Adults to Read with Understanding: Literacy Activity Cheat Sheet

Activity	What do learners do?	Which progressions does it focus on?	Where do I find it?	Can I use it? Rate: ✓ ? ✗
Word sort	Sort words according to features such as syllables, prefixes, suffixes or sounds	Decoding and vocabulary	Page 29	
Word building	Decode unfamiliar words by identifying root words and exploring patterns	Decoding and vocabulary	Page 30	
Word maps	Brainstorm words that relate to a single focus word in order to extend vocabulary	Vocabulary	Page 31	
Interactive cloze	Use context clues in a sentence, paragraph or text to work out unknown words	Vocabulary, language & text, comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 33	
Clustering	Group words together into meaningful clusters	Vocabulary, comprehension strategies	Page 35	
Structured overviews	Organise words into a hierarchy (e.g. like an chart describing all the roles in an organisation)	Vocabulary, language & text, comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 36	
Clines	Arrange words into a sequence that shows shades of meaning (e.g. like words expressing temperature)	Vocabulary	Page 37	
Predicting and defining new words	Predict and define keywords they think will be in a text	Vocabulary, comprehension strategies	Page 38	

Concept circles	Explain concepts and relationships that link related words	Vocabulary, comprehension strategies	Page 39	
Pair definitions	Write a definition and someone else has to guess the original word	Vocabulary	Page 40	
Word and definition barrier activity	Match words with definitions verbally	Vocabulary, comprehension strategies	Page 42	
Identifying key words	Locate keywords in a text and work out their meanings from context.	Vocabulary, comprehension strategies	Page 43	
Navigating a text	Skim and scan a text to identify its structure, key ideas and relevant details.	Language and text, comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 44	
Surveying language and text structure	Scan a text to get an overview of how it's organised and predict its content	Language and text, comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 45	
Brainstorming	Activate prior knowledge about a topic before reading a text	Vocabulary, comprehension strategies	Page 46	
KWL activity	Activate prior knowledge about a topic and create a purpose for reading	Comprehension strategies	Page 47	
Previewing and predicting text content	Preview a text in order to predict its content	Language and text, comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 48	
Asking questions	Ask questions about a text in order to create a purpose for reading.	Comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 49	

Skimming and scanning	Skim a text to get a general idea and then scan for relevant information	Language and text, comprehension strategies,	Page 50	
Identifying main ideas	Match sentences that summarise the main ideas in a text with paragraphs from a text	Comprehension strategies	Page 51	
Using 'comment codes'	Mark up a text using comment codes to show their response or the kind of content	Comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 52	
Using question dice	Roll a dice to generate questions to ask about a text they've read	Comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 53	
Selecting relevant information	Sort statements about a text depending on how relevant they are to purpose or question	Comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 54	
Using three-level thinking guides	Read a text for meaning on three different levels including literal, interpretative and evaluative	Comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 55-56	
Reciprocal teaching of reading	Discuss a reading text in a small group using different roles to predict, clarify, question and summarise	Comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 57-58	
Shared-reading	Practice reading comprehension strategies	Decoding, vocabulary, language and text, comprehension strategies, reading critically	Page 59, 118	
Teaching-decoding	A selection of activity ideas across the steps in the decoding progression	Decoding	Pages 119-121	