

Activities and Games

DOMINOS

The following activity is from a Handbook for Volunteers from the Volunteer Training Project at the Tacoma, Washington, Community House. Although the activity is aimed at ESL students, it can be adapted to literacy students using sight words, survival words, or for the student who needs to recognize individual letters.

Purpose: To practice recognizing and matching shapes, numbers, pictures, letters, money, times or vocabulary.

Materials: A commercial domino set or homemade domino cards with pictures, letters, colors, shapes, etc.

Directions: Give each player five dominos and place the remaining dominos face down in a pile. Turn the top domino face up. The first player tries to match one of his/her dominos with either half of the first domino. You can play from either end of the domino. If he/she can't play, he/she draws from the pile until he/she can. Have the student say the number or word as it is played. The first player to use all of his/her dominos wins.

Examples:

A POTPOURRI OF IDEAS



"I thought, for a change of pace, I would buy a puzzle. I bought a small, 100 piece one with a finished size of 9 inches by 7 inches. I put it together and turned it upside down. I randomly printed words from our word list on the puzzle with a thick marker. I photocopied the word puzzle and sent it along with the dismantled word puzzle to my student so s/he could put it together.

& Tutoring sessions need a little zest and vigor??? Why not: Open the tutoring session by asking what the student wanted to read since the last time you met, but couldn't. A book? The mail? Kid's homework?

& Read from your student's journal (with permission). Remember, beginning

readers should write too. If the student has difficulties, talk it out. Does the student recall his/her thoughts from when it was written?

- & Read with your student, review old favorites -- maybe rereading some dictated language experience stories. Another trick is to read with the adult, fading out when s/he can go "solo," fading back in as needed.
- & Ask the student to choose 5 words to overlearn, (spell as well as read). Construct sentences so the student says the words at the right time. Can s/he cite synonyms? Antonyms? Also, for the next session, write a story for your student using the 5 selected words.
- & Read to your student. Wrap up by reading to the student, maybe from a new novel, the paper, or even a children's classic that the student missed as a child.

Source: Linda Thistlewaite, Western Ill. University

B-19, PLACE YOUR MARKERS!

A good game can be one of your most effective reading materials. Learners usually enjoy games because content or skills are taught in a different format that often makes learning more fun. You can make Bingo cards that serve many purposes. Below are two examples of ways to use Bingo cards.

On the top chart when the tutor calls out a word or names a symbol, the student finds it on his/her card and covers it with a marker. Or, the student can use a Bingo card in another way. Working alone, s/he can cover the card squares with markers that correspond to each square.

Card squares have

letters (upper/lower case)
letters
sight words
vocabulary words
numbers that are spelled out
common signs (no writing)
symbols
abbreviations
contractions

You call out

letter name or sound
words beginning or ending with letter sound
words
definitions of words
numbers
what the signs mean
what symbol is or what it means
abbreviated words
words that make up the contractions

Card squares have

Student covers squares with markers having

letters	pictures of objects whose names begin or end with those letters
lowercase letters	capital letters
manuscript letters	cursive letters
vocabulary words	synonyms, antonyms, or homonyms
contractions	words making up the contractions
common signs (no writing) words	telling what signs mean
symbols	words telling what symbols mean
present tense of irregular verbs	past tense of irregular verbs
singular nouns	plural nouns

Source: PREPARING YOUR OWN ADULT BASIC EDUCATION READING MATERIALS
by Gail Rice

SCRABBLE

Instructions: The first player selects a word and writes it near the center of the grid. Take turns adding words--as one would do with a Scrabble board and tiles.

candy	always
year	other
race	sorry
everything	apple
good	hand
looking	cooking
children	tree
something	paper

SOURCE: Literacy Link, Greater Indianapolis Literacy League

DESTINATION: YOUR CHOICE

Beware: If you follow this plan you and your student will work on the following skills, have fun, and learn much more than you can imagine:

critical thinking	library reference skills
basic math	cost comparisons
map reading	reading tables, graphs
budgeting	reading comprehension
history	geography

How about trying something a little out of the ordinary with your student? Find out where your student would like to go on vacation in the U.S. Talk about what kinds of things you look for in a vacation destination, especially if children are a part of the trip. To help you with your decision, find travel brochures at local libraries in the pamphlet file or stop at a travel agency. Check your local library's travel video collection. Most libraries also have a wide variety of travel books including the Mobil Travel Guide as well as guides to state and

Sight words
green water
the not
is in
to down
he I

Lord Student's Sight Words
shepherd
green water

Source: Basic Literacy Tutor Handbook