



Disappearing Words

Level

Lower-
intermediate-
advanced

Time

20-30 minutes

Outline

Vocabulary
learning
techniques

Focus

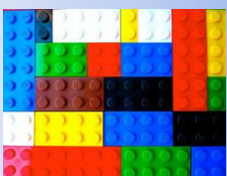
Reading
Writing

Material

Coloured chalks

Thinking skills

LOTS



Procedure

1. Write 10-15 topic-related expressions on the blackboard (e.g. in white chalk).
2. Ask your learners to come to the board and, to each word/expression, add a definition, an English synonym, or a translation. They use a different colour of chalk.
3. Tell them that each person can only add ONE definition, synonym, or translation.
4. Tell them to sit down.
5. Together add/correct.
6. Tell them “to sit on their pens”, i.e. they are not allowed to take notes at this stage.
7. Ask them to memorise the expressions for 2 minutes.
8. Tell them to close their eyes.
9. Erase some definitions, synonyms, translations. Add a line where you erased a word.
10. Tell them to open their eyes, come to the board, and fill in the missing expressions. Tell them that each person can only add ONE definition, synonym, translation.
11. Repeat step 5.
12. Repeat steps 7-8.
13. Erase some of the original (English) topic-related expressions you wrote on the board.
14. Repeat steps 10 and 5.
15. Tell them to copy down all the expressions.
16. Then tell them to highlight 5-7 expressions in their notes that they REALLY want to remember.
17. Then tell them to tick their 2 absolutely favourite expressions.
18. Ask them to write a sentence with each of their two favourite expressions.

Optional

Revise some of these words at the beginning of the next lessons (see review/revision chapter).