

Writing Extension Activities: Try this in class

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Here are some specific extension activity ideas you can try out in class

1. Personalise it activity

Aim: students practice speaking by telling about their favourite object

Using an app such as fotobabble (www.fotobabble.com) students take a picture of their favourite object. They record themselves saying what the object is, where they got it, how long they have had it and why it is their favourite object. They can share their work on a class blog.

2. Integrate higher order thinking skills activity

Aim: to consider word choice in communicating meaning

Choose a text with a range of adjectives. Replace all the adjectives in the text with the word, *nice*. Ask students to read the text and replace the word *nice* with an adjective that makes sense in the context. Students compare texts and discuss how the change in adjective affects the meaning and tone of the text.

3. Review regularly activity

Aim: to review vocabulary

Ask students to go through the unit and choose 5 words. They write each word on a separate slip of paper. Collect the slips. Put students into teams. Pull out a slip and give a definition or example of the word. Teams write the word down. Do this for as long as you have time, then ask teams to swap papers for checking.

4. Give some choice activity

Aim: to practice making polite requests and offers
Give students a 3x3 grid such as the one on page 2. Each student chooses 2-3 of the activities from the grid to complete.

5. Time extenders activity

Aim: to create a class vocabulary box for review

Ask fast finishers to take a card. On one side they write the vocabulary word, on the other they write the definition and a gapped sentence. Students can take cards from the box and use them to test each other on their vocabulary whenever they have a spare few minutes. These can also be used for whole class review.

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6. Informal assessment activity

Aim: to support student autonomy in deciding goal achievement

Write the aims of the lesson on the board each day. Ask students to write their own personal aim for each lesson. For example, their personal aim might be *to raise my hand and answer a question*. At the end of the lesson, students decide if they have reached the teacher's and their aims.

7. Fun activity

Aim: to review grammar

Explain to students what an auction is. Tell them they are going to bid for sentences in a grammar auction. Create a set of 15 sentences – some correct, some not. This works well when you create sentences with typical errors your students make. There should be at least 10 correct sentences. Hand them out to teams of 3-4 students. Give teams about 10 minutes to look at the sentences and decide which ones they think are good. Each team starts with £1000. Start

the bidding at sentence 1. Teams either bid for the sentence or not. The sentence is sold to the highest bidder. Keep track of how much teams spend and who buys each sentence. At the end of the list, the team with the most correct sentences and the most money is the winning team.

8. Ideas for projects

Some ideas for projects include:

- Do a school-wide survey. Present findings with graphs and charts in the school assembly.
- Write or perform a song based on a topic studied.
- Identify a school problem. Investigate ways to solve it. Present a report to the headmaster.
- Do a web-quest to find out more about a topic. Create a poster presentation for parent's evening.
- Create a film documentary.
- Use language studied to create a movie.

Example of grid for 'give some choice' activity:

<p>Write an informal dialogue using one of the situations on page 37. Rewrite it so that it is more formal.</p>	<p>Listen to the dialogues. As you listen read the transcript aloud, mimicking the intonation of the speakers.</p>	<p>Write a letter in which you make a request. For example, write a request for a refund or for information.</p>
<p>Write 3-5 requests. Scramble the sentences. Give them to a partner to unscramble.</p>	<p>Think of a charity you would like to raise money for. Create a one-minute commercial describing the charity and asking for donations.</p>	<p>Write a request on a card. On another card, write the response. Do this 4-6 more times so that you have 5-7 requests and 5-7 responses. Turn the cards face down. Work with a partner. Turn over 2 cards. If they are a matching pair, you can keep them. If not, turn them face down again. It's now your partner's turn to find a matching pair.</p>
<p>Work in a group. Each person in the group writes down 5 actions on 5 slips of paper (e.g. wash my car, open the window). Put all the slips into the middle. One student takes a slip and mimes the action. The other students try to guess the action, but have to say it as a request: for example: <i>Would you please wash my car?</i></p>	<p>Work with a partner. Record one of the situations on page 37. Play it to another pair. They say which situation it is.</p>	<p>Work with a partner. Create another situation like the ones on page 37. Give it to another pair. They act out the situation.</p>

(Based on New Headway Intermediate 4th ed. page 37).