

14 ideas for fast finishers in the primary classroom

After several months of disruption to their English learning, your class may have students who are at different levels. Some of them may finish the activities you give them very quickly. Here are some ideas that you can give these learners to do, while you support the students that need more time.

Individual activities:

- Write a list of ten things they can find in the classroom (or any other place).
- Write a list of words that start with the same letter as their name.
- Write down three things they learned today.
- Give them a book to read.
- Get them to write a word with each letter of the alphabet, from A to Z. You can make this more challenging by giving them a topic, e.g. animals, sports and hobbies, food and drink. (They may not be able to find a word for every letter.)
- Draw a picture that includes five new words they have learned today and write the words in the picture.
- If they have access to the internet, they can do online activities at <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/parents-and-children/activities-for-children/>
- Older learners can keep a journal. Write down what they did yesterday.

Pair and groups activities:

- One student chooses an animal and the others ask yes/no questions to identify the animal.
- Mime an animal and the others guess what it is. The student miming mustn't speak. This can also be done for jobs, sports, etc.
- Have a spelling test. Students take turns to say a word and their partner has to spell it. They should write the words and, when they have finished, check them in their dictionaries or with you.
- Students take turns to draw a word and the others have to guess what it is.
- Students write a quiz for the rest of the class – it could be on the topic of the lesson.
- Make a poster for the classroom wall including pictures of some of the words they have learned this week.