

Sample Cloze Activities

Fill in the gaps

Cloze (fill in the gaps) activities are a great way to help students focus on key language in their vocational course. The activities involve taking key words, technical terms or concept names out of a text, leaving gaps to be filled. The students fill in (close) the gaps by predicting the correct term from a selection provided underneath or above the text. See examples below.

Uses of Cloze Activities

Cloze activities can be used in a variety of ways, for instance:

- as a note taking strategy during teacher presentations or lectures
- to reinforce and break up reading, especially if using self paced materials
- for recall of key points and terminology at the end of a session or for general revision of a unit of work
- to promote student discussion and peer learning if used with pairs or small groups of students

Note taking
Reading skills
Highlight key points

Benefits of Cloze Activities

Cloze activities have a number of benefits. They

- allow students to make their own meaning from a piece of text or theory
- engage students in active learning and so appeal to those who prefer to 'learn by doing' or writing, rather than just reading
- highlight key terminology and concepts for students.

Developing a cloze activity for your teaching

Take a passage from your text, handbook or manual, and photocopy or retype it. Highlight key terminology that has been introduced during class and which you wish to reinforce or emphasise. Put this key terminology above or below the text in random order within a box. Delete or white it out the terms you have selected.

This works best if the terms are somehow explained by other words in the text.

It is best to use this as a pair or small group activity so that students can clarify their understandings with each other.

If there is no passage of text that seems suitable then create one of your own which focuses on critical terminology and its meaning.

Active learning

*Key terminology
& concepts*

*Terms need to be
explained by other
words in the text*

Cloze Activities

Sample Cloze activities for professional development sessions

Fears & phobias

Fill in the gaps from the words below in the following text about fears & phobias

The only thing to fear is fear itself, not so apparently for a significant section of the population. In fact most people experience fears of one kind or another. Fears that are long lasting are called phobias and are basically a form of anxiety disorder which can curtail a person's happiness and life's choices. Some common well known phobias are _____ or a fear of open spaces or for those who are crippled with fear when anywhere near water, _____. In fact one solution to a well known phobia which affects a lot of people _____, is to put mirrors in lifts.

Less common phobias are conditions like _____ or fear of disease. Others experience monophobia, a fear of being alone, or _____ a fear of public speaking. Some unusual phobias that affect daily life are _____ a fear of clothes, _____ a fear of nudity or _____ a fear of washing.

There are of course common phobias that sometimes develop in childhood like _____ the fear of going to bed. The good thing though is that most of us have got over our earlier phobias, particularly _____ which is fear of the bogey man.

Unfortunately there are phobias that can be difficult to overcome and can be long lasting. You may know someone who has _____ and hence finds it difficult to be on time for anything! A more serious phobia is _____ a fear of food and is often associated with anorexia and certainly proves how destructive phobias can be!

Cloze activity - Example 1

Memory

Put the following words and phrases in the correct spaces in the sentence

Little ideas	Bottleneck	big idea	associated
paying attention	bottleneck problem	Chunking	conscious
schemas			

Two types of memory

It appears that the memory functions of our brain are divided into two parts which are called short term memory and long term memory.

Short term memory is primarily used for _____ and is the _____ part of our mind whereas _____ is used for storage so that you can retrieve information in the future.

Memory problems

Only 5-7 pieces of information can be transferred from short term memory to long term memory at a time. When there is too much information to be processed at a time (from short term to long term memory) we overload the brain and the information is lost. This is called the _____.

Memory strategies

_____ is an effective method to get around the bottleneck problem. This involves organising a number of _____ or bits of information into a _____ so that it is easier to remember.

A related strategy for remembering new information and ideas is to actively link new ideas by connecting them to _____ collections of information stored in our _____. These collections of information are usually stored in interconnected categories, known as _____.

Solutions to sample Cloze activities

Fears and phobias

The only thing to fear is fear itself, not so apparently for a significant section of the population. In fact most people experience fears of one kind or another. Fears that are long lasting are called phobias and are basically a form of anxiety disorder which can curtail a person's happiness and life's choices. Some common well known phobias are *agrophobia* or a fear of open spaces or for those who are crippled with fear when anywhere near water or *hydrophobia*. In fact one solution to a well known phobia which affects a lot of people, *claustrophobia*, is to put mirrors in lifts.

Less common phobias are conditions like *pathophobia* or fear of disease. Others experience monophobia, a fear of being alone, or *glossophobia* a fear of public speaking. Some unusual phobias that affect daily living are *vestophobia* a fear of clothes, *gymnophobia* a fear of nudity or *ablutophobia* a fear of washing.

There are of course common phobias that sometimes develop in childhood like *clinophobia* the fear of going to bed. However, the good thing though is that most of us have got over our earlier phobias, particularly *bogyphobia* which is a few of the bogy man.

Unfortunately there are phobias that can be difficult to overcome and can be long lasting. You may know someone who has *chronophobia* and hence finds it difficult to be on time for anything! A more serious phobia is *cibophobia* a fear of food and is often associated with anorexia and certainly proves how destructive phobias can be!

Memory

Two types of memory

It appears that the memory functions of our brain are divided into two parts which are called short term memory and long term memory.

Short term memory is primarily used for paying attention and is the conscious part of our mind whereas long term memory is used for storage so that you can retrieve information in the future.

Memory problems

Only 5-7 pieces of information can be transferred from short term memory to long term memory at a time. When there is too much information to be processed at a time (from short term to long term memory) we overload the brain and the information is lost. This is called the bottleneck problem.

Memory strategies

Chunking is an effective method to get around the bottleneck problem. This involves organising a number of little ideas or bits of information into a big idea so that it is easier to remember.

A related strategy for remembering new information and ideas is to actively link new ideas by connecting them to associated collections of information stored in our long term memory. These collections of information are usually stored in interconnected categories, known as schemas.