

## Can you remember the items?

### Reader what a teacher says about this activity

'Can you remember the items?' helps my learners develop their memory skills. It's also a good way to revise and recycle vocabulary. It can also be adapted so they can develop their creativity and collaborative skills.'

<b>Stage 1: Prepare</b>	<p>Collect around 10–15 items and bring these to the class with you. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a comb</li><li>• a key</li><li>• a bus ticket</li><li>• a coin.</li></ul> <p>Some of the items can be vocabulary the learners have recently learned and some can be new words.</p> <p>In a previous lesson you could say to learners: 'For the next lesson bring an object in with you.'</p>
<b>Stage 2: Introduce</b>	<p>Display the items on a table at the front of the class. Hold each item up and ask: 'What is this?'</p> <p>Elicit answers and put each item back on the table.</p>
<b>Stage 3: Remember</b>	<p>Cover the items with a large piece of paper or cloth.</p> <p>Say: 'Use your memory and write a list of all the items on the table. You have three minutes. If you can't remember the word in English, write it in your own language.'</p> <p>Get learners to write their lists. Then ...</p> <p>Option 1: Put learners in pairs and say: 'Compare your list. Look at the spelling.'</p> <p>Option 2: Pick a learner and say: 'How many items did you remember? Read your list out.' [Pause] 'Can anyone add anything else?'</p> <p>Finally, remove the cover and check the answers.</p>
<b>Stage 4: Create</b>	<p>Put learners in small groups and say: 'Work together. Write a story using the words you wrote down. You have ten minutes.'</p> <p>Monitor and help where necessary.</p>

**Stage 5: Share  
with the whole  
class**

Choose a few groups and say: 'Read/act out your story.'

**Memory is often a neglected skill in English classes, but it is an important part of learning anything, particularly a new language. By getting learners to write a story you also help them remember the vocabulary as they are actively using it.**

**Author: British Council**