

# **10-Minute Critical Thinking Activities for English Classes**

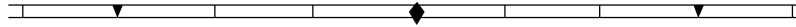
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# The Activities

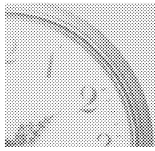
## Matrix of Critical-Thinking Skills

Page No.	ACTIVITY	Language Applications	Logical Reasoning	Associative Thinking	Creative Thinking	Creative Fluency	Analysis	Critical Reading	Writing	Synthesis	Evaluation and Making Judgments
2	Word Squares	✓									
3	A Picture Is Worth . . .	✓			✓		✓				
4	Common Knowledge			✓							
5	Double Trouble	✓		✓							
6	Decomposition	✓									
7	You've Got a Pal . . .	✓									
8	More Word Pictures	✓			✓		✓				
9	Alice, Lice, Lie	✓	✓								
10	Word Bits	✓									
11	Word Chains	✓									
12	Not Baaad!	✓		✓		✓					
13	Word Follow-ups	✓		✓							
14	Vocabulary Stretches	✓		✓		✓					
15	A-Maze-Ing						✓		✓		
17	Nab the Kidnapper!		✓				✓	✓			
18	The Fibber		✓				✓	✓			
19	The Cookie Monster		✓				✓	✓			
20	The Motorcycle in . . .		✓				✓	✓			
21	A Crabby Cabby		✓				✓	✓			
22	Food Chain Farmer		✓				✓	✓			
23	Taradiddle		✓				✓	✓			
24	Meow Times Four		✓				✓				
25	The Draggin' Dragons		✓				✓	✓			
26	Nightmare		✓				✓	✓			
28	What If???				✓		✓				✓
29	Not to Decide . . .						✓				✓
30	Look out Below!				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

(continued)

**Matrix of Critical-Thinking Skills (continued)**

Page No.	Activity	Language Applications	Logical Reasoning	Associative Thinking	Creative Thinking	Creative Fluency	Analysis	Critical Reading	Writing	Synthesis	Evaluation and Making Judgments
31	Forever				✓	✓	✓				✓
32	Recycle Challenge				✓	✓				✓	
33	Dictionary Madness	✓		✓	✓					✓	
34	Shrink and Stretch				✓		✓			✓	
35	Peek Pocket				✓	✓				✓	
36	Eggsactly				✓		✓	✓		✓	
37	Peanut Butter Is . . .			✓	✓		✓				
38	What Kind of Animal . . .	✓		✓			✓				
39	No Lion Around				✓	✓				✓	
40	Imogene Ashun's . . .	✓		✓			✓				
41	Splat the Blats				✓		✓			✓	✓
42	A Pungent Problem				✓		✓			✓	✓
43	You Name It	✓		✓	✓					✓	
45	Hidden Animals	✓		✓		✓					
46	Bow Wow Wower		✓				✓	✓			
47	A Problem with Poetry				✓		✓	✓	✓		
48	Proverbial Wisdom	✓	✓				✓				
49	New World		✓				✓				✓
50	Egghead Nursery Rhymes	✓					✓	✓	✓		
51	Super Egghead . . .	✓		✓			✓	✓			
52	Unmentionables	✓			✓		✓		✓		
53	Burn, Baby, Burn						✓		✓		✓
54	Common Threads	✓		✓							
55	Above or Below?		✓				✓			✓	
56	Traditional Riddles		✓		✓		✓				
57	Hink Pinks	✓		✓	✓						
58	Letter Soup	✓	✓	✓							
59	Don't Bug Me		✓				✓				
60	Word Associations	✓		✓						✓	

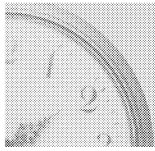


# Common Knowledge

Each pair below has a word in common. The first letter of each answer is given. Fill in the common word.

1. swimming and card games                                  s u i t s
2. figure skating and refrigerator                                  i \_ \_ \_
3. baseball and bowling    s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. basketball and fishing    n \_ \_ \_
5. auto races and train station    t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. ballroom dancing and ice cream store                                  d \_ \_ \_ \_
7. baseball and jewelry store    d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. sailing and card games    d \_ \_ \_ \_
9. golf and playground    s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. deer hunting and wallets    b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_





# Decomposition

Take these words apart, one letter at a time. Each time you remove a letter, the remaining letters must spell a word. Watch out! You may have to change the order of the letters.

riders  
 rider  
 ride  
 rid  
 id  
 I

barbed _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	salmon _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	pastry _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
planter _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	steamer _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	rasping _____ _____ _____ _____ _____



# Alice, Lice, Lie

Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, invented this game. It's called *Doublets*. To solve a doublet, you change one word into another, one letter at a time. Each time you change a letter, you must form a real word.

*Example:*    must  
                  mast  
                  cast  
                  can't

Watch out! You will have to switch the order of the letters to solve some of these doublets.

1. WARM

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COLD

2. LOSE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FIND

3. MORE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LESS

4. NONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SOME

5. HARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SOFT

6. SHOW

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELL

