



15 Creative Ways to Teach an Adult to Read

By Literacy Mid-South

1. Sidewalk Chalk

Take your student behind the library and use sidewalk chalk to have your student draw letters, spell words, or spell the words that you say aloud.

2. Clay Writing

Bring in Play-Doh and have your student create letters and words using the Play-Doh.

3. Blends Technique

When teaching blends, cut the letters of the blends into small squares. When you say a consonant blend (for example, TH), have the students put the blend together. (T-H)

4. Rapping the Letters

Start a beat on the table and have your students "rap" out the spelling of a word as they follow the beat. You can also use this with syllables.

5. Stepping Words

Put the letters of a word on individual sheets of paper--one letter per sheet. Lay them out on the floor and have your student sequentially step on each letter to create the word. This can also be done with sentences!

6. Simon Says

For ESL students, play Simon Says. It's a fun game for kids but the adults will love it, too!

Simon Says

7. Words to Pictures

Say a word out loud and have the student draw a picture of the word. This is great for ESL learners.

8. Pictures to Words

Show your student a picture and have them write all the words of what they see in the picture.

9. Matching Game

Remember those concentration-style memory games? These work for adults, too. Have a picture of the words on cards and the actual words on the other cards

10. Vocabulary Tours

Take a tour through the library and have a "Treasure Hunt" with your student. Give them a list of words and have them tour the library to find those words.

11. Word Association Game

Show your student a vocabulary word and have them write as many sentences as possible using that word.

12. Writing Journal



Each week, have your student spend the last twenty minutes of the tutoring session journaling about what they have learned. You can join in, too, and write what you have learned. At the end, you can

share this with one another!

13. Writing Prompts

Give your student some writing prompts to help get them started in developing sentences. "What is your favorite television show and why do you like it?" "When is the time in your life you have been happiest?"

14. Tweeting

Create a joint Twitter account with your student. If your student doesn't know something or has a question, don't just answer it for them! Tweet the question on Twitter! Next tutoring session, see your responses. If you create a joint Twitter account, let us know and we will share it!



15. Scattergories

A great game for building vocabulary is Scattergories! You can create your own Scattergories game. Don't time it, as this may make your student nervous, but work with them instead. Instead of dice with letters, you could put letters on strips of paper in a bowl and have the student pick the letter to use for each list.