

Across

3. find
5. become
6. win
7. cut
8. utter
12. do
13. dress
14. date

Down

1. go
2. give
4. dot
5. buy
7. choose
9. tell
10. ride
11. draw
12. do

“How much do you know about past tense verbs!?” We know! You are teachers! This time, our puzzle is a simple sample puzzle you can use in your classes for the students who have just learned the past tense. Hey! This issue is related to creativity, right!? We wanted to be creative, too!

Answers to the *Funny Riddles*:

1. School Bus
2. Stamp
3. “b”
4. “Y”

References:

Quotable Quotes:

1. <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/creativity>
2. <http://learningrevolution.com/page/great-educational-quotes>

Caricature: <https://www.google.com/>

Teaching Tips: <http://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator/creative-language-classroom/>

Jokes:

1. <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Joke>
<http://www.short-funny.com/>

Funny Riddles:

2. <http://www.doriddles.com/riddle-263#show>
3. <https://www.rd.com/jokes/riddles/>

Crossword: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/free-printable/writing-printables/puzzle-past>

the week on the board then ask students which topics they'd like to learn on which day. Have them explain their logic. Write the topics down next to the corresponding day and time, you have a student-made schedule.

- *Regularly ask for feedback.* Ask students if they have a favorite language exercise or assignment. If so, then conduct it more frequently. Often, what they want and what they need are the same thing. They'll be the first to know if they're losing interest or not understanding something.

JOKES

Judge: "Why did you steal the car?"

Man: "I had to get to work."

Judge: "Why didn't you take the bus?"

Man: I don't have a driver's license for the bus.

- Can a kangaroo jump higher than a house?
- Of course, a house doesn't jump at all!
- Anton, do you think I'm a bad mother?
- My name is Paul!
- Patient: Oh doctor, I'm just so nervous. This is my first operation.
- Doctor: Don't worry. Mine too!



FUNNY RIDDLES

1. What is big and yellow and comes in the morning, to brighten mom's day?
2. I travel all over the world, but always stay in my corner. What am I?
3. What do you call a bear without an ear?
4. Which is the most curious letter?

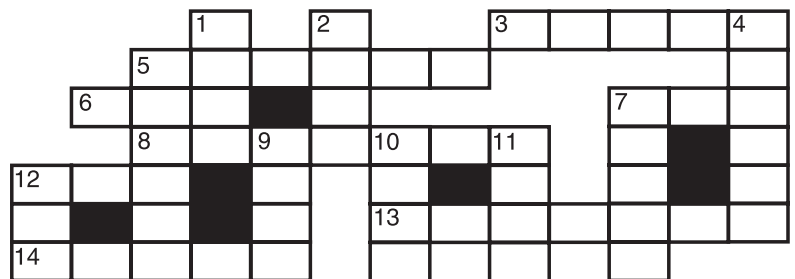
(Check below for the answers.)



CROSSWORDS:

Puzzle in the past

Past tense verbs show actions that happened in the Past. Add----- ed to form the past tense of most verbs. Other verbs have irregular past tense forms. Write the past tense of each verb to complete the puzzle.



gets it all going.

d. Improves language retention.

Ultimately, this is what we are after. Our goal is to teach students a language. When the other four factors come together, the result will be improved retention due to increased participation, quality assignments, active learning and fun.

Now, back to business! The following is a brief note on 5 keys to a creative language classroom:

1. Resist Running Like Clockwork

Routines can be useful. They are a sequence of habits that keep you on track and prevent complications. Not every day has to be a completely unique language learning experience. A little routine never hurt anyone, but zero creativity can.

Throwing in some spontaneity every now and then increases the level of default alertness that your students operate at. Routines are comfortable, sometimes too comfortable, letting students sit back and “turn off.” Mixing things up requires them to pay more attention and listen carefully.

2. Invert the Routine

You don't have to completely change the routine to mix things up, you just have to change how the routine looks from the outside.

If you run the same three-mile loop every day, pretty soon your body will get used to it and it will become easy. Give yourself a new three-mile loop and all of a sudden you'll be challenged again. The same is true with our students' brains. We want to keep them from getting too

comfortable. Let's take a look at some tricks to help clarify:

- *Do the opposite.* Take something familiar and do it differently. For example, if you always teach from the front of the class, try teaching from the back; if your students always sit in rows, try putting them in a circle.
- *Switch up the order.* Do daily activities in a different order. If you usually give a homework assignment at the end of class, for example, give it at the beginning instead.
- *Change roles.* Let students do the work. For example, if you usually read out the class schedule every morning, have one of your students do it one day.

3. Give Students the Power

As teachers our best source of inspiration is our students themselves. It's okay to ask them for their ideas and opinions when designing a curriculum. Students are used to being told what to do and just going with the flow. Pull them back out of passive mode by giving them the power. Let them have a stake in the class by helping plan the curriculum for the next day or week. Here are some ways to do so:

- *Let students choose.* Describe two assignments then ask something like, “Reza, which exercise would you like to do first?” Giving them the chance to choose will instantly wake them back up.
- *Involve students in scheduling.* Present interchangeable topics that you plan to teach the following week. Write the days of

NO COMMENT!



Share your ideas with us: azimi.hz@gmail.com

TEACHING TIPS

THREE Keys to a Creative Language Classroom

Want to know a secret? Curiosity didn't kill the cat. Lack of creativity did! The world has woken up to the fact that creativity is not just a fluffy term assigned to kindergarten art projects. It is essential to human development, happiness, and last but not least, learning!

Let's start with some reminders on why creativity is a tool that's worth the extra effort.

a. Boosts participation. Giving students the power to create on their own—whether it be presentations, arguments or assignments—keeps them on their toes. They won't just be going through

the motions. Unable to rely on routine, they will be alert and waiting to hear what you have in store for them next.

b. Promotes active learning. By asking students to think outside the box, stray beyond normal assignment guidelines and use their own creativity, you can keep them in the realm of active learning for longer periods of time.

c. Creates a fun and positive learning environment in the classroom. Not only does creativity make class more enjoyable for the students, but it is also more fun for you, the teacher. Students have so much to offer, and sometimes stepping out of your normal routine and feeding off of their creative energy can do wonders. Fun and positivity are contagious. Creativity is the spark that

Creativity is the Key!

Hadi Azimi

Assistant Professor in ELT, Schools of Medicine and of Paramedical Sciences,
Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Email: azimi.hz@gmail.com

Zahra Kobadi Kerman

MA in TEFL

Email: zahra.kobadi@yahoo.com

PREFACE

Teaching is described as the “daily grind” for several reasons. One major reason is the routine we experience over many years. What should we do? Many great thinkers believe that one major spice we may add to our classes is ‘creativity’. I always remember and praise one of my elementary teachers: with a smiling face he, sometimes, asked us to tell a joke one by one at the end of some sessions. Well, it took only about 10 minutes of our class, no big deal, yet it did magic! We all adored him, partly and unintentionally because he was a little bit more creative compared with other teachers! See!? Even now after about 27 years I am excited to write about it! Want to be remembered as a great teacher by your students 27 years later!? No worries: start today! Be creative!

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.”

— **Arthur Koestler**

“Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud.”

— **Samuel Butler**

“The freedom to make mistakes provides the best environment for creativity.

Education isn't how much information you have committed to your memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.”

— **Anatole Franc**

“Creativity is knowing how to hide your sources”

— **C.E.M. Joad**

“The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

— **Sylvia Plath**