

The Dice Book

Speaking and Writing Activities
for English Language Learners



Sample Activities

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Experience and Opinion

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1.13 Favorites

	subject in school		animal
	cuisine		holiday
	musical instrument		month







Directions: Your roll of the die will determine a topic. Say what your favorite is and why.

Examples:

- A. "My favorite subject in school is art. I love to draw."
- B. "My favorite cuisine is Thai. There's a wild mix of flavors."
- C. "My favorite instrument is accordion. I like folk music with natural non-electric instruments."

Erase & Replace: fruit, vegetable, thing to do, pastime, movie, kind of music, season, painter, singer, holiday, time of day, time of evening, book, TV show, kind of car, dance, actor, bird, place to visit, cheese, meat, restaurant, game, website, video game, color of clothing, store, fast food place, thing to cook, kind of salad, period in history, newspaper, magazine, type of weather, type of person, type of hat

1.14 Do you believe in _____?

	space aliens		magic
	true love		miracles
	ghosts		climate change

Directions: Your roll will give you a topic. Say whether you believe that thing exists or not. Say why or how you know.







Examples:

- A. "Yes, I believe in space aliens. They built the pyramids."
- B. "Yes, I believe in true love, but I think it happens often in life if you're a very loving person."
- C. "No, I don't believe in ghosts. There is no evidence they exist. They are good for movies, though."

Erase & Replace: good and bad luck, astrology, fortune telling, angels, fairies, heaven, hell, fate, love at first sight, witchcraft, women's intuition, mind-reading, time travel, climate change, love at first sight, love potions, democracy, I Ching, astrology, superfoods, mind over matter, leprechauns, string theory, parallel universes, wormholes, happy endings, spirits, Santa Claus, positive energy, traditional healers, homeopathy

2 Critical and Creative Thinking

2.1 Without _____

	love		smart phones
	cars		insurance
	government		cameras













Directions: Your roll will reveal a thing or concept. Say what life would be like without it. Your answer can be serious or silly.

Examples:

- A. "Without love, people would not know what to write songs about."
- B. "Without cars, the streets of the world would be safer, and there would be less pollution."
- C. "Without government, the world would be chaotic. But maybe people wouldn't need to pay taxes."

Erase & Replace: gambling, internet ads, illness, water, chocolate, dentists, flowers, online dating sites, cake, birds, candles, philosophy, comedy, books, crime, nationalism, science, swearing, mosquitoes, vultures, laws, police, lawyers, lying, truth, ice cream, viruses, doctors, charity, toilets, magic, wheels

2.2 Choose

	watermelon		travel
	money		elevators
	candles		hamburgers
	cell phones		windows
	TV		blankets
	books		birthday parties

























Directions: Roll the die twice to get a pair of things. Then imagine that you could only have one of them for the rest of your life. Which would it be and why?

Examples:

- A. “Candles or elevators? Well, I prefer to climb stairs, not take an elevator. So I would choose to keep candles in my life.”
- B. “TV or travel. I think I could live without either. But I would sacrifice TV. I really like to travel.”
- C. “Books or hamburgers. I can read books every day, but I can’t eat a hamburger every day. So I’m choosing books.”

Erase & Replace: cats, dogs, magic, can openers, fish, pizza, Google, mangos, cars, champagne, gifts, Halloween, candy, guitars, baseball, football, basketball, washing machines, internet, dancing, dresses, hair salons, police, department stores, Amazon.com, movies, The Who, airplane journeys, smells, eyeglasses, telescopes, pillows, shoes, teeth, Coca-Cola (soft drinks), beer, roses, toothpaste, knives, hammers, face cream, fitness machines

2.9 Which creature doesn't fit?

	goat		tarantula		ant		crab
	salmon		horse		sea horse		jackal
	reindeer		parrot		rat		tiger
	monkey		camel		lion		weasel
	elephant		goose		pig		donkey
	cheetah		narwhal		seagull		cobra

Directions: Roll the die four times to make a set of four creatures, one from each column. Say why or how one of them is different from the other three. Remember, there are many potentially reasonable answers. You just need to use logic to justify how one animal is fundamentally different from the others.







Examples:

- “Elephant, parrot, sea horse, jackal. Easy! A sea horse is different because it’s the only animal that lives in the sea.”
- “Monkey, tarantula, seagull, weasel. A tarantula is different because it’s the only one that’s poisonous.”
- “Salmon, narwhal, lion, tiger. Hmmm. Two are cats and two live in the sea. Oh, I know! The only one we *eat* is salmon, so it is different.”

Erase & Replace: zebra, mole, worm, dung beetle, cricket, octopus, clownfish, coral, baboon, buffalo, deer, coyote, snow leopard, dodo bird, Komodo dragon, frog, toad, salamander, gecko, mosquito, black widow spider, orangutan, giraffe, lemur, panda, chicken, dog, sloth

3.9 While/When I'm

present continuous

	listening to music		exercising
	driving		doing homework
	walking		sleeping

Directions: Is there something you do *while* or *when* you're doing something else? Start with

While I'm _____ ...
(action from roll)

or

When I'm _____ ...
(action from roll)

Then complete the sentence.







Examples:

- A. "While I'm listening to music, I clean the kitchen."
- B. "When I'm driving, I usually listen to the radio."
- C. "When I'm walking, I listen to my iPod."

Erase & Replace: sitting in class, washing the dishes, taking a shower, on a walk, walking the dog, waiting for the doctor, brushing my teeth, making dinner, sitting in traffic, cleaning the house, vacuuming, knitting, playing video games, jogging, working out at the gym, cooking, ironing

3.13 I haven't done that since

present perfect

	ridden a bike		skipped breakfast
	gone bowling		voted
	been in a hospital		slept in a car

Directions: Say how long it has been since you have done the thing in question. Use this model:

I haven't _____ since _____.
(action from roll) (point in time)







Note that the *point in time* can be an event or a date, as in the examples.

Examples:

- A. "I haven't ridden a bike since I was a child."
- B. "I haven't gone bowling since about 2002."
- C. "I haven't been in a hospital since I visited my friend Prudence. It was right after she had her knee replacement."

Erase and Replace: gone swimming, enrolled in a class, gone to a funeral, carved a Jack-o-lantern, seen a puppet show, cried at a movie, danced with a family member, sent a physical letter to someone, flown on a plane, failed a test, had a big argument with a family member, been in a fistfight, ridden a donkey or horse, stepped in dog poop, quit a job, been in love with two people, eaten ants, drunk horse milk

6.4 If I were _____: one roll *unreal conditional*

	a ball		a candle
	the summer		a window
	the moon		a tree

Directions: Get poetic. Say what you would do or how you would be if you were this thing. Use this pattern:







If I were _____, I would...
 (noun from your roll)

Examples:

- A. "If I were a ball, I'd roll."
- B. "If I were the summer, I'd be warm and inspire a picnic."
- C. "If I were the moon, I'd hang in the air, and allow you to see during the night when you walk down from the house to the river."

Erase & Replace: a river, a meadow, a bouquet of flowers, a rose, symphony, a book, the ocean, a dessert, the autumn, the spring, the winter, a mountain, snow, water, the rain, the sand, a door, the sky, a fireplace, a pillow, a tango, a string, a valley, a shadow, a storm, a lake, a sailboat, a mirror

7.10 The _____est person I know *superlative form*

	nicest		bravest
	tallest		messiest
	happiest		neatest

Directions: Your roll will give you a superlative, an adjective ending in -est. Use one of these models:

The _____est person I know is ...
(-est word from roll)

One of the _____est people I know is ...
(-est word from roll)







Examples:

- A. "The nicest person I know is my friend Kate."
- B. "The tallest person I know is our history teacher."
- C. "One of the happiest people I know is my neighbor Paul. He laughs all the time."

Erase & Replace: coolest, friendliest, strongest, weakest, smartest, rudest, grumpiest, kindest, craziest, moodiest, sweetest, prettiest, shyest, richest, saddest, softest, proudest, warmest, pickiest, clumsiest, skinniest, noisiest, loudest, gentlest, quietest, plainest, silliest, laziest, scariest, politest, brightest, funniest, kookiest, wildest, wittiest, cruelest, gloomiest, shrewdest, weirdest, strangest, scruffiest, sassiest, savvyest, crankiest, flashiest, flakiest, fussiest

7.14 A thing that can be _____

passive voice

	stolen		born
	chilled		guarded
	ground		folded

Directions: Your roll will give you the third form of a verb for a passive-voice construction, like:

A thing that can be _____ is...
(verb from roll)







Things that can be _____ are...
(verb from roll)

Examples:

- A. "A thing that can be stolen is your identity."
- B. "What can be chilled? Gazpacho is chilled."
- C. "Things that can be ground are spices, like turmeric, cumin, or pepper."

Erase & Replace: made, sold, elected, stated, arranged, opened, fixed, serviced, reinforced, purchased, found, held, said, reported, taken, told, given, built, introduced, used, sent, forced, asked, arrested, put, appointed, established, expected, carried, presented, published, allowed, considered, announced, left, determined, needed, designed, performed, formed, seen, discovered, abandoned, revealed, released, followed, agreed on, caught, launched, recorded, written

8.9 Prefixes

	re-		bi-
	un-		co-
	dis-		ex-







Directions: Prefixes start words and indicate a meaning in themselves. The prefix “re,” for instance, has the meaning of *again*, as in *relocate* or *review*. After rolling the die, say one word with your prefix. Take turns and keep the game going fast.

Examples:

- A. “**re-**. Release.”
- B. “**un-**. Unreal.”
- C. “**dis-**. Disagree.”

Erase & Replace: in-, de-, non-, anti-, extra-, hyper-, semi-, sub-, pre-, post-, a-

8.12 Rhyme it

	fish		thought
	break		chair
	read		sea

Directions: Make a rhyme with your word. No repeats. Play fast!

Examples:

- A. A. "Fish. Wish."
- B. B. "Break. Fake."
- C. C. "Read. Greed."

Erase & Replace: glue, run, easy, sand, inn, date, cat, please, boat, fur, street, sigh, pick, think, dime, band, hit, white, city, funny, hollow, book, land, car, man, house, fire, sign, nut, where