

ORAL PERFORMANCE

useful ideas – MATURITA

MIND MAPS – PART ONE

Vážení učitelé,

rádi bychom vám postupně nabídli několik užitečných nápadů pro procvičování **ústního projevu žáka** k maturitní zkoušce z anglického jazyka i k dalším jazykovým zkouškám. Naší snahou je, aby nápady/metody, které řada z vás již ve výuce běžně využívá, byly levné (bez nároků na tisk) a snadno využitelné.

Language teachers usually use **mind maps** to help their students learn vocabulary and/or plan “topic” presentations. However, **mind maps** can be used for a much larger range of activities, e.g. to:

- take notes (recalling ideas/vocabulary etc.)
- improve creativity and capture ideas
- compare (e.g. pictures)
- clarify thoughts
- summarize
- gain an overview
- see topics in context
- plan a speech
- expand topics to see more detail

Mind maps can be a helpful tool for **exam preparation and memorization**, i.e. as study maps summarizing vast quantities of information. The use of interconnecting branches, colours, graphics and keywords promote retention of information, prompting visualization of the map and the retrieval of the information when it counts!

➤ Main functions of a mind map

- To organize, reorganize and filter the thoughts and ideas
- To analyze and structure information, to identify relationships between key points
- To produce and present information in a transparent way
- To build vocabulary

➤ Main principles for creating a mind map

Students should:

- Note down points starting from the centre and working outwards (create sub-themes)
- Look for relationships
- Use lines to show connections between things
- Keep the points brief (use key words)

Benefits

Simplicity – easy to use

Associative – any idea probably has many links

Visual – easy to remember

Radial – allows to work in many directions

Overview – helps to see the overall picture and relationship between issues (sub-themes, ideas, etc.)

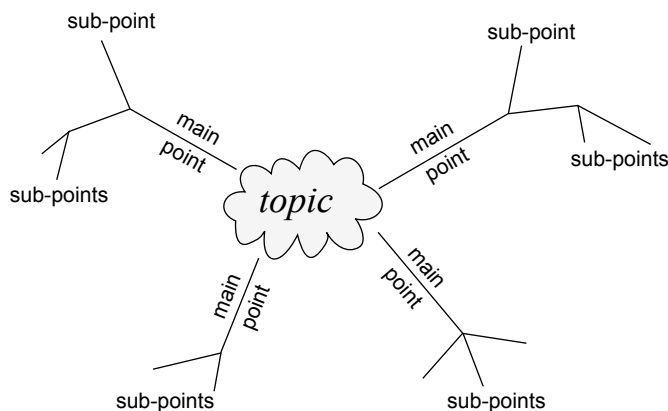
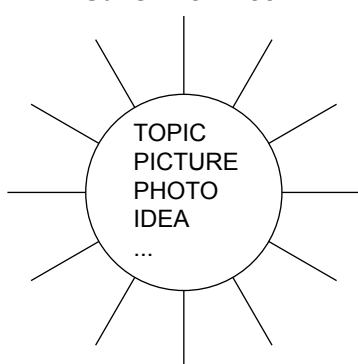
Ideas for a good mind map

It is useful to:

- position the main idea in the centre
- use lots of space (to add things later)
- use colour and capitals when useful (to make it more memorable)
- personalize the map

➤ General structure/shape of a mind map

Sunshine wheel



1 Taking Notes (presenting a new topic)

It is useful to start the “topic” lesson with handing a blank sheet of paper (A4) to each student. First, ask the students to write the main topic, e.g. William Shakespeare, in the centre of the paper. Do the same on the blackboard or flipchart.

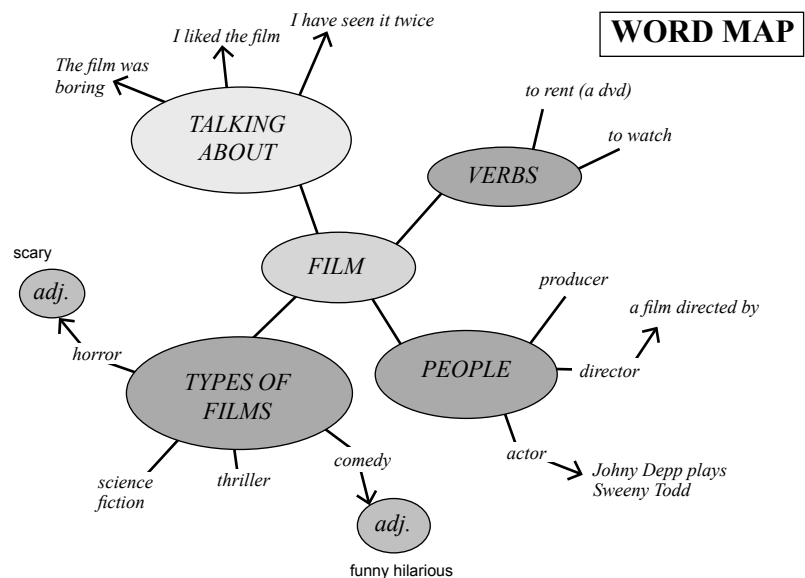
As the lesson progresses, students should note the key points as they arise on the main branches of their mind map. When you (the teacher) go into more detail on a point, students should add sub-branches with appropriate keywords. Where there are specific facts related to the branch, students may just record it in the text attached to the branch. By the end of the lesson, students will have a compact record of the topic which will enable them to recall the whole lesson/topic at a glance.

Brainstorming is a good way to motivate students and initiate the activity – ask students to give you as much information/vocabulary as possible and write it on the blackboard round the central topic. You may also ask students to look for relationships and help you organize the ideas into sub-themes/topics, e.g. family, childhood, London, work – plays, poetry.

At the end of the lesson, you can check whether the students understood or followed your speech/paid attention by asking them to speak about the topic/subtopic using their own notes.

2 Building vocabulary

Mind maps for building vocabulary are sometimes referred to as “vocabulary networks” or “word maps”. One popular use of such mind maps is organising vocabulary groups, e.g. the central theme is “food” and the sub-themes are “meat”, “fruit”, “vegetables” etc. Another way might be to associate the various nouns, adjectives and verbs with the central theme, e.g. television, programme, film, switch on, watch, interesting, boring...



3 Presenting a topic (e.g. W. Shakespeare)

