



Starter Keywords

- Individual
- Pairs
- Small group
- Whole group

Uses: This helps to connect the imminent learning with previous knowledge and to focus the mind on the key information and language. It is also useful as an indicator to the level of understanding of the group.

Resources: Prepare some cards or posters with words written on them.

Time: 10 minutes.

What to do:

1. Think in advance of the session what the key words of the topic will be.
2. Either display these as posters (one word per poster) around the room, or make smaller cards to put on tables.
3. If using posters, the participants circulate the posters and mark them with a tick (yes - understand this); (cross - no=idea what this is); (question mark - not sure). You could use coloured stickers (green, red and orange for example) or coloured pens instead.
4. If using small cards, the participants could divide these into three columns as above.
5. Keep a record of these and use them for your planning.
6. Lead a discussion around the words and encourage the participants to research those they are not sure of or don't know.
7. The participants could also keep a record of the words and cross them off as they undertake the unit of work or topic.

Make it different:

- Ask the participants to suggest keywords once they know what the topic is.
- Ask the participants to keep an A-Z list of keywords and definitions.
- Ask the participants to highlight keywords within a piece of text.

Points to make:

- Our brains need 'hooks' to hang learning on and to make connections with previous and new learning.
- Keywords can be an important trigger for recalling prior knowledge.