

Interactive crossword – Teacher’s notes

Level: Upper Intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2)

Aim: Students complete a crossword to revise a set of vocabulary. The activity can be done either as a ‘quiet’ classroom task (or homework) or in an interactive manner involving lots of speaking.

Vocabulary: High frequency words (i.e. words that have one, two or three red stars in the Macmillan English Dictionary)

Preparation:

Copy a sufficient number of crosswords for your students.

Procedure:

Crosswords can, of course, simply be copied and handed out and the students asked to complete them either in class or at home. (Use only the third page of the accompanying worksheets.) If you choose to use the material in this way, the students’ task can be made easier by reminding them that these words can be found in the word lists on the reference pages at the end of each of Units 5 – 8 of *Straightforward* Upper Intermediate Student’s Book.

If you choose to use the material in class, the activity will be more fun if the students work in pairs or groups.

1 Put the students into pairs. Distribute copies of the gapped crosswords, giving half of the pairs the ‘Across clues’ and the other half the ‘Down clues’. Tell the students to write clues for the words that appear on the crossword grids in front of them. If they cannot remember the meanings of these words, their memories can be jogged by referring them, first, to the word lists at the end of Units 5 – 8, and, secondly, to look for these words within the lessons A – D of the relevant unit. If they are still having problems, encourage them to confer with other pairs of students working on the same set of clues.

You can choose what kind of clues the students must prepare. With a monolingual class, translations can be given. Alternatively, the students can write dictionary-style definitions in English.

Before moving on to the next stage, encourage pairs of students (working on the same set of clues) to compare and improve their definitions.

2 Rearrange the students into pairs, so that each pair includes one student with ‘Across clues’ and one with ‘Down clues’. They must not show each other their pieces of paper.

Students must complete their crosswords by asking their partners for the missing clues.