

## Top Ten Ideas: Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

1. Limit students to 20 words per slide when they are doing presentations.
2. Have displays of 'Banned', 'Heavenly' and 'Use with caution' words – see [David Rogers' blog](#) and photo from [Victoria Ellis](#).
3. Use word mats... There are lots of examples on the [Staffordshire Learning Net](#) site.
4. Start your lesson with anagrams of key words... You could use images as prompts.
5. Hangman makes a great starter or plenary and reinforces spellings of key words.
6. Provide students with word lists that they 'must', 'should' and 'could' use.
7. Have a geographical 'word of the week' – this could be accompanied by an image, and you could get students to take responsibility for this.
8. 'Ready, Steady, Write!' – give a list of key words which they have to incorporate into an answer that they write within a specified time limit.
9. Have students answer the register with a key word from the topic they're studying rather than 'Yes Sir/Miss'.
10. Allow students a limited number of words within which they have to summarise an article/page from a book.
11. Produce 'topic readers' – folders of articles to encourage A Level students to read more widely.
12. Give students black markers instead of highlighters when they're reading an article – crossing out what's not relevant/important requires a lot more thought and focus than highlighting what is (or might be) relevant/important.
13. Provide students with three or four alternative definitions for key words – which do they think is best? Can they add to/develop the definitions?
14. 'Clipart fill' – write a paragraph, but cover a number of words with Clipart images... Students have to identify the missing words from the images (and the context).
15. Start a topic with a wordsearch of 10-15 key words (don't tell students the words they're looking for) – students find the words and try and define them. At the end of the topic, give students a crossword where the clues are definitions of the same set of key words.
16. Taboo – give students cards with a key word at the top and a list of words that would normally be used to define the key word. Students have to explain the key word to the rest of their team without using any of the words on the card.
17. Spelling tests!
18. Geography Bingo

19. As a revision activity, give students a list of key words numbered 1 to 6. Have them roll a die and incorporate the corresponding key word into a written paragraph.
20. 'Just a minute' is a useful plenary activity – students talk for a minute about what they've learnt, linking back to the objectives and without repetition, deviation or hesitation.
21. Dominoes/loop cards are a good way to recap definitions of key words.
22. Spelling multiple choice – students identify the correct spellings of key words.
23. Remove every fifth word of a piece of text – students should decide on a word to put in... Compare the sense of each piece of text.
24. Countdown Conundrum
25. Having marked an extended writing task, give students a table of words that they've used – have them colour-code which are 'brilliant', 'ok' and 'not so good' words/terms to use in exam answers.
26. Rather than asking students to write down five words to describe what they see in an image, ask them to write down five adjectives...
27. Liaise with the English Department – use the same strategies they use to develop students' persuasive, informative, etc. writing.