

## Making crosswords

This activity reinforces key vocabulary.

In order to introduce the activity for the first time, a crossword can be made on the board as a whole-class activity.

### Method:

1. Divide the class into pairs or small groups.
2. Each group uses the key vocabulary from a recently-studied topic.
3. Students select a main word that is neither too long or too short (approximately 5 or 6 letters) for the middle
4. Then they find other words to go around this so that the letters match (see illustration below).
5. Leaving the main word that runs down the middle to provide help, they write clues for the words that will go from left to right.
6. Groups make up a final version with the central key word and empty boxes to match the clues for the other words.
7. Students pass their crossword and clues to another pair/group to see how quickly they can answer the clues.

### Example from topic *Water and weather*:

1. Students select key word and write from top to bottom.

w
e
a
t
h
e
r

2. Students identify other words that will fit, using keyword list or textbook.

*water*  
*gale*  
*forecast*  
*sleet*  
*high*  
*measure*  
*dry*

3. Students write clues for words.

- 1. *you can drink this*  
2. *strong wind*

4. Students make empty crossword grid with numbers to match the clues.

