

Word Box Play

A box of words is a treasure-trove of ideas, waiting to be explored. To make your own word box, cut out the word box cards. Then find a box or cloth bag to store them in. You might want to paint or decorate your word box. Playing with your word box will help you use words in unusual ways.

Here's a photo of my word box:



When your word box is ready, choose a topic to write about, such as “food.” For example, you could write about food you love or food you hate. Food you wish you could eat right now, or food that smells foul. Weird food, like chocolate-covered ants, or boring food. Any type of food you want.

Take three word cards from your box. If you’re writing with someone, don’t look at each other’s cards.

Write for three minutes, using the words on your cards somewhere in your writing. Even if your word-box words don’t seem to fit the topic, try to make them fit – and make sense. You want to “hide” the words in your writing by making them blend into the topic.

If you read your writing to others, ask them to try to guess your word box words.

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Example

Can you guess the three word box words in this example?

Pizza. My favourite food. If I were shipwrecked on a tropical island, I would miss pizza most of all. Forget about chocolate, although I adore it. Pizza, dripping with mozzarella cheese, slathered with tomato sauce, topped with pineapple and pepperoni. Yum! I'd dive off a cliff for pizza. Go to prison for pizza. Pizza is worth getting in trouble. Deep-dish Chicago-style pizza. Gourmet wood-oven pizza. Thin-crust potato pizza. I love them all.

(Word box words: prison, shipwreck, cliff)

Want More?

Choose three new words from your word box and write on a different topic. Here are some ideas:

- Pets (real or imaginary)
- Storms (snowstorms or thunderstorms)
- Birthday parties (worse party ever or your ideal party)
- Pirates (the most evil pirate ever to sail the seas)

Or, choose three new word box words then start writing with one of these sentences:

- *The noise grew louder when I opened the door.*
- *He shut his eyes and made a wish.*
- *She started to panic when the curtains caught on fire.*
- *When I woke up, I was a bird.*
- *If I could be anyone or anything, I would be . . .*

Add more words to your word box. Cut out words from magazines or write them yourself. Choose strong words that will spark interesting ideas.

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