



*Accretion*TM

A Multi-Level Word Game

INSTRUCTIONS



For years, I worked with English as a Second Language students both in the U.S. and abroad, and I used games like *Apple to Apples* and *Scattergories* to help creatively develop their English skills. Soon, however, my students had developed far beyond these games. They needed a new way to challenge themselves and take their language skills further.

That's when I created Accretion.

The beauty of Accretion is that it can be used by students of all levels, from grade school to adults, just by adding a new level of complexity. Additionally, each level can be done individually or by groups, adding a conversational and group-building aspect to the game. By starting with recall and taking students all the way through the creative process, Accretion moves beyond simple memorization, into synthesis and on to creation: that's where real learning takes hold.

Each step in Accretion creates a different result. In step one, you will brainstorm lists of words. In step two, you will organize those brainstormed words into a sentence. This sentence is the grain of sand, and in step three, you will add layers of meaning to that sentence, creating a unique story: your pearl.

Accommodate any learning level. Accretion can be tailored to suit any skill level. For beginners, start with a 3-letter word and progress to a simple sentence and story. As students become more advanced, begin the process with longer, 5-letter words, and then create longer word lists and more complex sentences. You can also focus on developing a more intricate story in step three.

Organize your session. Each step in Accretion can be accomplished individually or as a group. Group work can be supportive and reassuring for new language learners, while individual or small group work gives more responsibility to each participant, increasing the challenge.

Regardless of ability level, the easiest way to learn Accretion is just to get started, be creative and have fun.



STEP ONE: RECALL

Working independently or as a group, students are timed as they create lists of words. Increase or decrease the time limit to adjust difficulty. Each Accretion session begins with one word: a 3, 4, or 5 letter word chosen by the group leader or teacher or by the group as a whole. A list of suggested words is included on the next page. Then, working individually or as a group, brainstorm a list of words that begin with each letter of the chosen word, and write them in a column under each letter (e.g. if HAT is the chosen word, create one list of words beginning with H, one beginning with A, and one beginning with T). The words recalled do not have any restrictions as to length.

STEP TWO: SYNTHESIS

Using the lists created in level one, create a sentence with one word from each column: a subject, a verb and an object. Articles (a, an, the) are free words students can use in sentence creation. (With the 4 and 5 letter word lists, students can add extra words, such as possible adjectives, adverbs etc., to expand the sentence.) If more than one sentence emerges, great! Just choose your favorite to use in step three.

STEP THREE: CREATION

Now we have arrived at step three of the Accretion process. This is where your grain of sand becomes a pearl.

Look at the words of your step two sentence: what do they mean to you? What associations do they bring up? Where might they fit with other words and sentences as part of a larger story? There are no right or wrong answers. Step three is only about expressing your study of the sentence. The words in your story can come from the word lists, from your imagination or both. GO FOR IT!

After everyone has completed step three, take time to share. If you're working as a group on one story, you could discuss other ways the story might have gone or the structure of the story. If you have individuals or small groups creating several stories, there will be many pearls to admire. Discuss similarities and differences and celebrate fresh insights and ideas.

Then pick a new word and start creating all over again!



SUGGESTED WORDS

3 Letters

AGO
ITS
WAS
ONE
HAD
HAT
NOT
NOW
HIS
SAY
ARE
AND
PLY
FOR
COW
SHE
PAY
CAR
RIG
OIL
LED
TWO
CRY
OUT

4 Letters

SALE
MUCH
SOLD
MANY
WITH
META
THUS
MORE
HAVE
ONLY
JAIL
WINE
FUND
PLAN
HELP
SAVE
FEAR
MOVE
JUST
SUIT
FILE
DOWN
YEAR
RISE

5 Letters

STORE
BROKE
SHARP
AGENT
SINCE
ELBOW
HIRED
OTHER
WROTE
THOSE
PRICE
LOWER
TWIST
BUDGE
UNDER
IMPLY
VALUE
TRAIN
CAUSE
WHICH
SPEAK
BOARD
FIRST
HOPED



THREE LETTER WORD: _____

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FOUR LETTER WORD: _____

_____	_____	_____	_____
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FIVE LETTER WORD: _____

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