

HOW TO CONSTRUCT

by Alice C. Pack

A crossword puzzle can be quickly and easily constructed by even the most inexperienced teacher, and be as simple or as elaborate as the teacher desires or the lesson requires.

These puzzles are good, not only for vocabulary learning and reinforcement, but are also excellent teaching tools (particularly when sentences with cloze are used as the cues) for word derivatives—a real problem to the ESL student whose native language is non-European.

MATERIALS

All one needs to construct a crossword puzzle are a sheet of large square graph paper (about four squares to the inch is a good size), a ruler, and a pencil—of course, the words to be included in the puzzle and their definitions and/or sentences with cloze blanks must be on hand. (*If graph paper of this size is unavailable, draw your own graph paper on a ditto master with squares this size or larger.*)

PROCEDURE

Starting with the longest word in the group, print it, one letter to a square, horizontally or vertically, near the middle of the sheet (*see diagram No. 1*). Add an additional word by intersecting it with the first word using a common letter (*see diagram No. 2*). Continue by adding words both horizontally and vertically, until all the words on your list have been included (*see diagram No. 3*). This list may be only your basic vocabulary list or it may include some review words (freedom to add extra words makes the puzzle a little easier to construct).

After all the words have been placed in squares (always intersecting with at least one other word) a plain sheet of good bond paper (or any other kind which is semi-transparent) is placed on top. Fasten the two sheets together with paper clips or tape at the corners. Then, using the ruler, draw horizontal lines above and below each word and/or letter.

You now have the basic form of the puzzle (*see diagram No. 4*). Put a number at the beginning of each word, both horizontally and vertically, starting with the first square at the top (*see diagram No. 5*). Number the cues to correspond with the numbers of the words on the sheet. The puzzle may be duplicated by a copy machine or redrawn on a spirit master and run off.

A CROSSWORD PUZZLE

An easy puzzle using vocabulary items found in the schoolroom.

paper
pencils
chairs
tables
chalk

books
desks
blackboard
eraser
maps

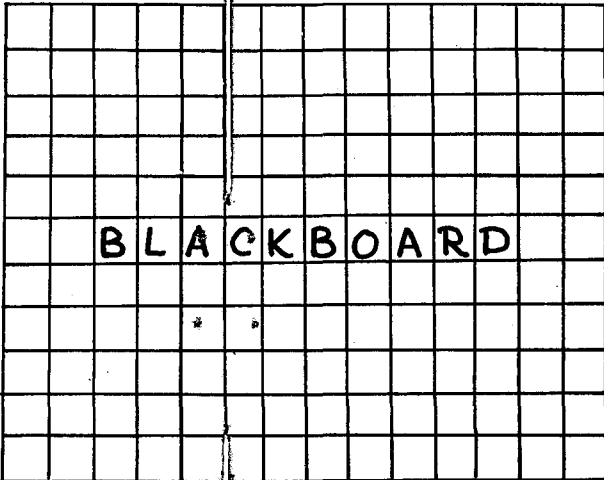


Diagram No. 1

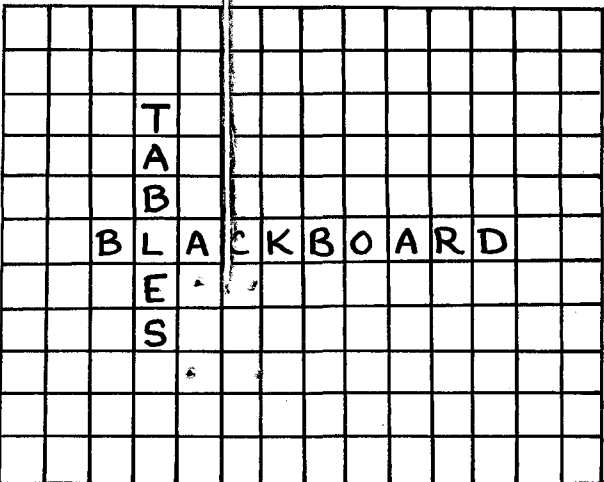


Diagram No. 2

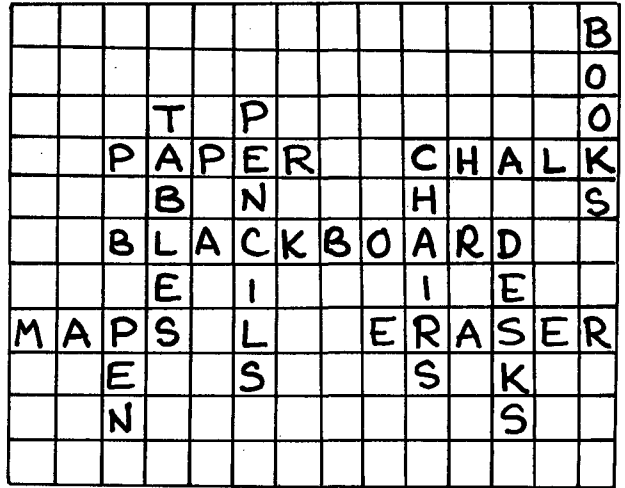


Diagram No. 3

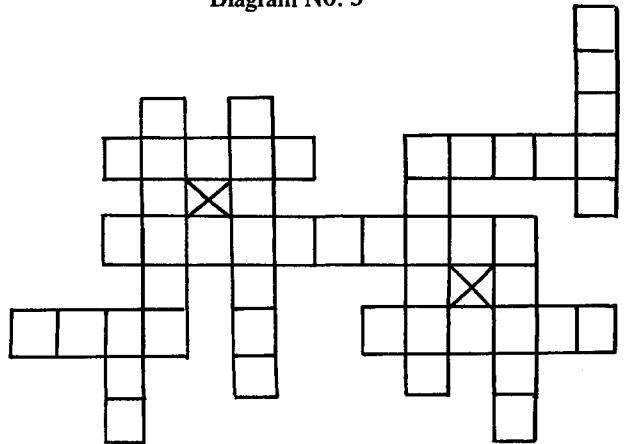


Diagram No. 4

Diagram No. 5 and the clues (sentences with clozure) are found on the following page. A more advanced puzzle with its cues is also included.

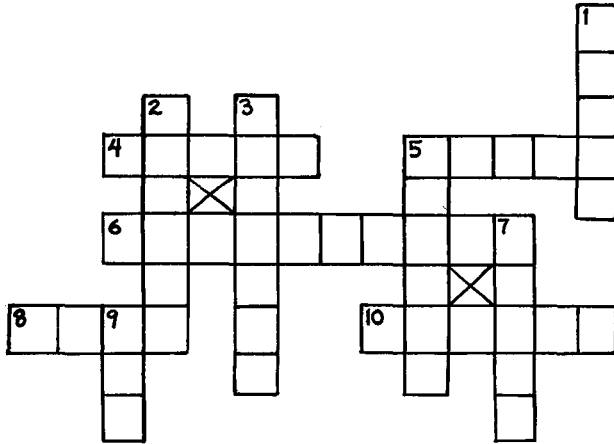


Diagram No. 5

ACROSS

- 1. The students read from their open -----.
- 4. When a student finishes he hands in his -----.
- 5. & 6. The teacher uses ----- to write on the -----.
- 8. Countries with their capitol cities are shown on -----.
- 10. An ----- is used to wipe the words off the blackboard.

DOWN

- 2. The ----- are arranged in rows.
- 3. The students write with -----.
- 5. The students sit on -----.
- 9. The teacher usually writes with a -----.

Following is a more advanced puzzle that uses derivatives of the given vocabulary words. At the discretion of the teacher, a list of the different word forms may or may not be given to the students.

TESL Reporter

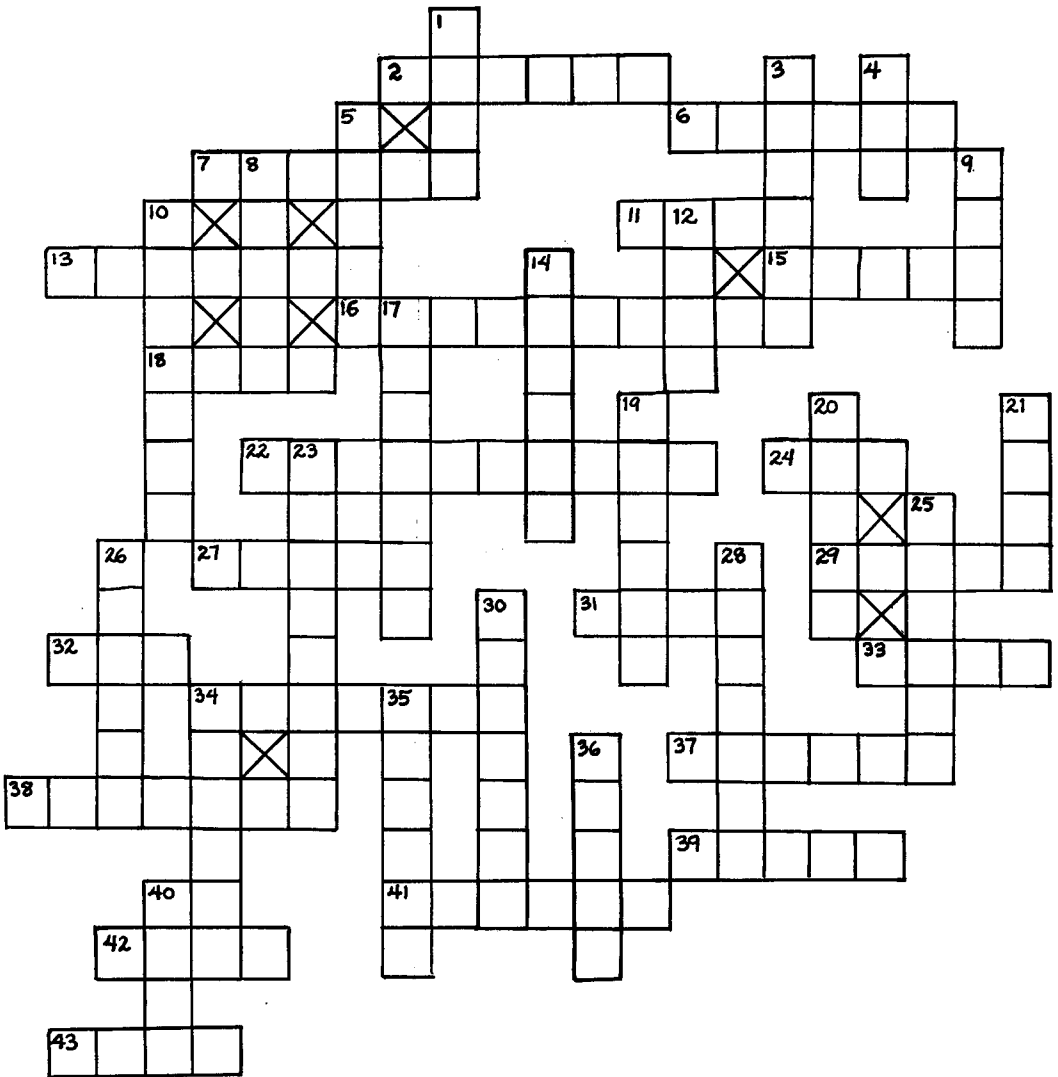
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VOCABULARY

- study (studiously, student)
- read (reads, reader)
- writer (written, writes)
- wise (wisdom, wisely)
- teacher (teach, taught)
- learn (learns, learning)
- desk (desks)
- table (tables)
- test (testing)
- idle (idler, idlers)
- papers
- map (maps)
- chalk
- blackboard
- pencils
- me
- please (pleased)



(Words in parenthesis may be omitted from the sentence if a harder puzzle is desired.)

ACROSS

- 2. A substitute (teacher) ---- the lesson (yesterday).
- 6. The ---- (of this essay) needs to revise it.
- 7. People who do nothing are ----.
- 11. She(s always busy, so) never has an ---- moment.
- 13. The teacher ---- was ---- with the students' work.
- 15. That student wants to ---- everything (about the subject).
- 16. He ---- avoided doing anything (that interfered with his pleasure).
- 18. Put the papers in (the drawer of) your ----.
- 22. The teacher usually writes on the ---- (with chalk).
- 24. & 27. When one writes with ---- (and ink), it's hard to ---- (the writing).
- 29. The teacher writes with ---- (on the blackboard).
- 31. (At the end of the semester) we always have a ----.
- 32. There's a ---- (of the world) on the wall of the classroom.

(continued on page 16)

HOW TO CONSTRUCT CROSSWORD PUZZLES

(continued from page 11)

33. The assignment was to ----(a chapter) in the text every night.
34. We also have --- assignments (to hand in).
37. One ---- (English) by using the language.
38. The teacher is --- the students (now).
39. If a student will ---- hard, he will learn.
40. It seems like the teacher always calls on ----.
41. He can ---- do the work (if he tries).
42. The work is ---- if one tries (to do it).
43. The --- student does his work (everyday).

DOWN

1. The teacher often uses the --- (in the atlas).
3. (During the semester,) he --- studied every day.
4. She needs a ---- (to sign her name on this paper).
5. The student --- a book every weekend.
8. Students have their own ---- (in the classroom).
9. You can use one of the ----- in the desk (to write your essay).
10. All of the students (who like to read) are good ----.
12. Put the essays in (the top drawer of) the ----.
14. Students should use ---- when studying and not stay up all night.
17. The ---- gave a new assignment (every day last semester).
19. Be sure to buy (a pencil with) an --- (on it).
20. Some instructors ---- better than others.
21. Do you have the ----(with our assignment in it)?
23. I'm not sure how much I'm ----(in this class).
25. Put all of the --- on top of the desk (when you are through with the exam).
26. Are there enough ---- (for all the students)?
28. Yes, every ---- has a desk, too.
30. Do you like hard or soft (lead) ----?
34. That student ---- well (when he tries).
35. We use ---- (instead of desks).
36. Every student has his own ---- (to use as a desk).
40. We often use the ---- (in the atlas).

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