

Distance Teaching

How to do retrieval practice



ENGAGE

Warm-up, retrieval practice, prior knowledge activation

- getting students interested in the lesson content from the very first minute
- doing retrieval practice
- creating a more personalised learning experience for students

To see what students already know about the theme of the lesson, what they would like to know and to get them interested in the lesson from the very first minute, a teacher can use a “KWL” chart. The KWL chart is a graphical organiser. It is a part of the constructivist teaching method, which develops students as active learners who construct their own knowledge. KWL is an abbreviation: “K” stands for what students already Know about the theme of the lesson, “W” stands for what they Want to learn, and “L” stands for what they Learned during the lesson.

KWL Chart

K What I already <u>know</u> about my topic	W What I <u>want</u> to know about my topic	L What I <u>learned</u> about my topic

Using the KWL chart in a virtual classroom

- You can send the chart to your students by email or chat as a document that students can edit before the planned video conference lesson. Alternatively, you can open the chart on your computer during the online lesson, share your screen and enable annotations.
- Ask your students to complete the first and the second columns of the chart and leave the third one until the end of the lesson or the theme.
- In the first column students write what they already know about the topic. For example, if you are going to teach a new grammar structure, students may put the rules they already know or an example sentence.
- In the second column let students put down what they want to know about the topic. It may be a word in their native language that they want to know how to translate into English.
- Students fill in the third column at the end of the lesson or theme and reflect on what they have learned.
- You can find a KWL template online for free or draw it yourself as a table in a document or on the Zoom whiteboard.

Alternatively...

- Ask students to draw and fill in the KWL chart in their notebooks and read out their ideas at the beginning of the next Zoom lesson.
- If you are teaching from the classroom, you can draw the KWL chart on a regular whiteboard, elicit the ideas from students during the Zoom lesson and fill in the chart yourself. Make sure you position the laptop or the webcam so that students can see the chart.