

B1 Student's handout

Using a word cloud maker to self-assess your writing

Summary

Content aims	to self-assess your writing and improve your vocabulary
Language aims	to write a story about the past
Links/Tools	Wordle WordItOut or Wordsalad

Activity 1: A story about the past

1. Read the story. Were your ideas from the word cloud correct?

The first time I saw the sea

I remember the first time I saw the sea. I was about nine and I lived with my parents and sister in a city far from the coast. Our holidays were usually in the country but our parents decided it was time for us to see the sea. We were really excited. We wanted to make sand castles, eat ice creams and try to find sea creatures.

The journey was long but finally we arrived. It was an unusually warm day. I remember it clearly. The sky was bright blue with just a few small clouds. There was a light breeze and I could smell the salt in the air. The sea looked amazing so I ran towards it as fast as I could. I heard my parents calling me but I didn't stop. I ran straight into the water. Firstly, it was freezing! Secondly, I didn't expect the sea to be so strong. A big wave came towards me and I fell back onto my feet. Some salty water went up my nose and I started to cough. Luckily my dad picked me up and I could breathe again.

Activity 2: Questions about the word cloud

Look at the word cloud again and answer these questions.

1. Which words appear in the story more than once?
2. What other words could the writer use to make the text different?
3. Why is it good to use different words in a story?
4. Are the past simple verbs in the correct form?
5. Can you see any spelling mistakes?

Activity 3: Self-assess your writing with a word cloud

1. For homework, write your story on your computer or mobile device.
2. Copy and paste your story into a word cloud maker. Make your word cloud.
3. Look at your word cloud and answer these questions.
 - a) Which words did you use more than once?
 - b) Could you use a different word sometimes? Which one?
 - c) Did you form the past simple verbs correctly?
 - d) Can you see any spelling mistakes?
4. Use the answers to your questions to make your writing better.
5. Save your writing. Share it with your teacher.