

# Activating Prior Knowledge Worksheet

## What Is Activating Prior Knowledge?

Activating prior knowledge is how you can use your knowledge of the world to make better sense of what you read. As you learn more about the world and build up your knowledge base it allows you to make better sense of what you read, making everything more relevant.

## How Do We Activate Our Prior Knowledge?

- We **discuss** what could be in a text based on what we already know.
- We **share** experiences that are related to a topic.
- We **use** different charts to help us organise our prior knowledge (E.g. Five Senses Chart, KWL Chart).
- We **ask** what we already know about a topic.

### Question One

Below is an image of an orange. Use your prior knowledge to answer the following questions about the humble orange.



a. Using your prior knowledge, list five things that an orange could be used for.

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b. What is the main vitamin in an orange? Circle the correct answer

Vitamin C

Vitamin A

Vitamin P

c. How do you get the zest from an orange? Tick the correct answer

- The zest is a fancy name for the juice, so you just squeeze it into a cup.
- The zest comes from the skin on the orange, you have to use a grater to get bits of it.
- The zest is actually the pips inside the orange. So just leave them inside.

d. What is the best thing to use to cut an orange?

e. What is the name of the white part of the orange? Circle the correct answer

Stalk

Pith

Tissue

Orange Muscle

## Question Two

Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

My alarm goes 'beep, beep' until I hit that big snooze button. Whoever thought of creating that magical button? They must be the saviour of the world's population. Do they have a Nobel Peace Prize, an Oscar, gold medal, a street (or streets) named after them, or maybe they just don't have to ever use that snooze button? That would be some reward. Me though, I must. It is my own fault, again. I am what my dad calls "my own worst enemy". Whatever that means?

Today is Monday. I regret snoozing my alarm because then the cuts begin. It starts with the shower. This is one snooze, it's my sacrifice. Two, my breakfast, well sitting at home breakfast. I'll grab a banana and eat the toast on the run. For all of my dad's wise words, he is kind enough to sort me out with two pieces of peanut butter toast every morning, ready for me on the kitchen bench. Third snooze, the teeth, just kidding. I am not that silly. Monday is the morning I sacrifice the most but it is not all deliberate. I stayed up too late last night and am simply tired. Two snoozes, two sacrifices and I can still make the bus with enough time to get cold waiting at the stop. As I head out of the door, toast and banana in hand, I glance at the time on my phone, 7.23am it reads. Okay, I admit to myself it is going to be quite tight. I live a 10 minute walk away from the bus stop. Out of the driveway, I

walk, but then the walk turns into something brisker, still trying to keep it cool and calm. It is quiet, I hear a noise that does sound like a large vehicle accelerating away. Panic surges through my body. I round the corner and see no one at the bus stop.

a. Explain an experience that relates to the topic of being late.

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b. What feelings do you imagine the character has when seeing no one at the bus stop?

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c. What things are people late for?

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d. What should you try not to be late for?

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e. What time do you think the character's school starts?

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f. What 'wise words' or advice would you share with the character?

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g. Why do you think the character did not run from her house straight away?

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# Activating Prior Knowledge Worksheet Answers

## Question One

a. Using your prior knowledge, list five things that an orange could be used for.

**Any of the following responses:**

**Juice, cakes, salads, marmalade/jam, desserts, a snack, cleaner, dry them (for a snack), put it into a cup of tea**

b. What is the main vitamin in an orange? Circle the correct answer

**Vitamin C**

Vitamin A

Vitamin P

c. How do you get the zest from an orange? Tick the correct answer

The zest is a fancy name for the juice, so you just squeeze it into a cup.

**The zest comes from the skin on the orange, you have to use a grater to get bits of it.**

The zest is actually the pips inside the orange. So just leave them inside.

d. What is the best thing to use to cut an orange?

**A knife**

e. What is the name of the white part of the orange? Circle the correct answer

Stalk

**Pith**

Tissue

Orange Muscle

## Question Two

a. Explain an experience that relates to the topic of being late.

**Responses will vary and should relate to the topic of being late and something personal.**

b. What feelings do you imagine the character has when seeing no one at the bus stop?

**Any of the following responses - disappointment, worry, concern, panic, anger, sadness.**

c. What things are people late for?

**Responses will vary - a bus, train, school, work, party, meetings with friends/colleagues.**

d. What should you try not to be late for?

**Responses will vary - school, work, transport, important engagements, interviews, meetings.**

e. What time do you think the character's school starts?

**Answers will vary but should be sensible around a school starting time - between 8am and 8.40am.**

f. What 'wise words' or advice would you share with the character?

**Answers will vary but should relate to the following: going to be early/earlier, putting your phone on the other side of the room so you can not press the snooze, read a book before going to bed.**

g. Why do you think the character did not run from her house straight away?

**Answers will vary but should relate to the character not realising how close the time was to the bus leaving, or being too casual about time, not looking at a watch or clock.**