
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

This week's Teacher's Corner helps students prepare for the future while practicing using infinitives. This week's lesson introduces WOOP, which is a way of planning for future success. When using WOOP, you think of a future wish, make an outcome to achieve, consider obstacles, and finally develop a plan to make your wish come true.

LEVEL

Intermediate to Advanced

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Speaking, reading (primary focus); listening, writing (secondary focus)

GOALS

During this activity students will

- Review infinitives while making future plans
- Practice speaking skills by discussing their wishes for the future

MATERIALS

- Teacher: whiteboard or chalkboard, markers or chalk, a timing device
- Students: pencils or pens, notebooks or writing paper, recording devices (optional)

PREPARATION

1. Read through all the materials carefully.
2. Print out the "WOOP – Verbs and Adjectives List" in Appendix 1, and make copies for each student.

ACTIVITY PART ONE: DREAMING OF THE FUTURE

In this part of the activity, students work in small pairs to discuss the future.

1. Begin this activity by writing the year that is twenty years in the future on the board. For example: If it is the year 2017, write the year 2037 on the board.
2. Ask students to think about where they will be twenty years in the future. Where will they live? What job will they have? What will they do as a hobby or for fun in the future?
3. Have students take out a piece of paper and a pen or pencil and write down their answers to these questions. Encourage students to be as creative as possible and to write down as many details as they can.
4. Next, have the students form pairs or small groups and share their futures with their partners. Encourage the students to ask questions about their partners' plans.
5. Conclude this portion of the activity by asking the students to share their plans with the entire class.

ACTIVITY PART TWO: MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE

1. Begin the next part of the lesson, by asking the students, "How do you make your future goals come true?"
2. As students share their answers in pairs or small groups to the question, write on the board the following:

WOOP		
Wish	What do you want to do?	
Outcome	Why do you want to do it?	
Obstacle	What do you do now that keeps you from doing it?	
Plan	What should you do to overcome the obstacle?	

3. Tell the students that today they will make plans for the future using WOOP. WOOP, or “Wish, Outcome, Obstacle, Plan,” helps people think about their future as a process instead of just an idea. It encourages people to take actions that make their dreams possible.
4. Work through an example together as a class by filling in the last column on the table. For example:

WOOP		
Wish	What do you want to do?	I want to speak better English.
Outcome	Why do you want to do it?	Speaking better English would allow me to study in the United States.
Obstacle	What do you do now that keeps you from doing it?	I’m afraid to speak English with new people, so I do not improve quickly.
Plan	What should you do to overcome the obstacle?	I intend to create an English club at school to practice my speaking with friends.

5. As a quick review, ask the students where the infinitive verbs are in the sentences above (Teachers could also ask students to identify gerunds here, though not the focus of this activity). As students call out the answers, circle or underline the infinitive verbs in the sentences.
6. Next, have the students write down a table like the one above with their own plan for the future. Students can use their idea from Part 1 of this activity or create a new plan to follow.
7. While students work on their ideas, pass out the verbs and adjectives list found in Appendix 1. Encourage students to use the verbs and adjectives in their sentences.
8. Conclude the activity by having the students share their WOOP plans with the class.

Appendix 1: WOOP – Verbs and Adjectives List

Directions: Use the following verbs and adjectives to create sentences about the future.

Verbs Followed by Infinitives				
attempt	decide	intend	plan	try
ask	expect	know how	prepare	volunteer
be able	fail	learn	promise	want
can afford	hope	need	refuse	would like

Adjectives Followed by Infinitives				
afraid	determined	lucky	relieved	sorry
careful	difficult	necessary	rewarding	surprised
certain	easy	proud	right	willing
challenging	excited	ready	shocked	wrong

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