

# Proverbs & Quotables:

Using *Very* Short Texts for Language Learning



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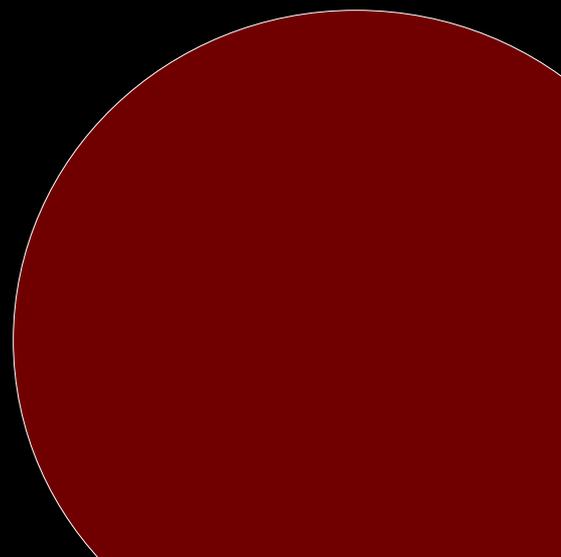
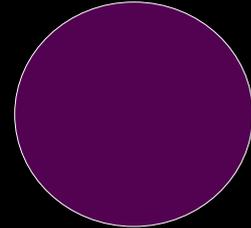
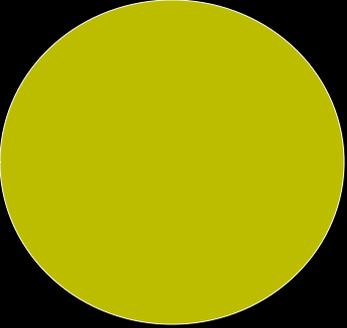
Do you have some  
favorite proverbs?

*very short texts in language learning*



What's your  
definition of a  
proverb?

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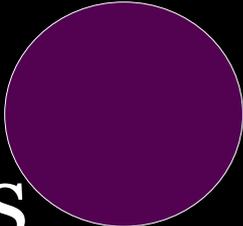
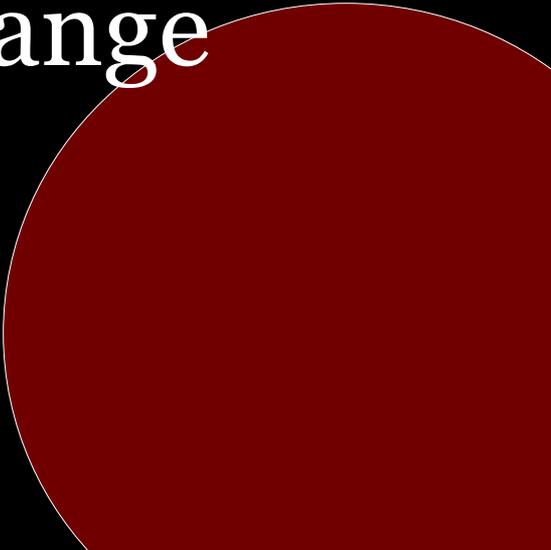
# Why proverbs?



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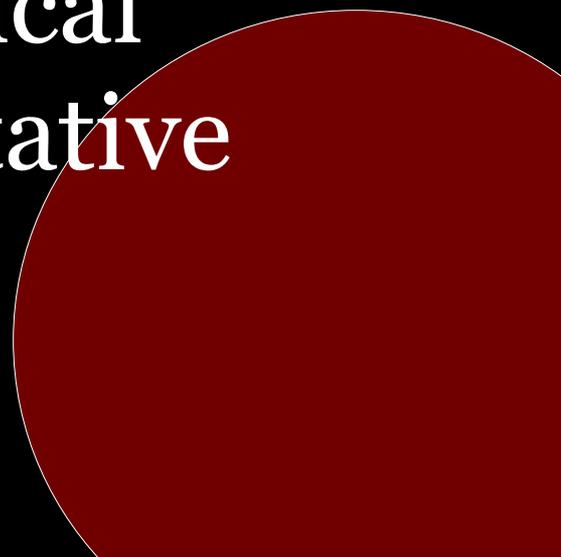


Why  
proverbs?

- 
- 
- 
- \* Have stood the test of time
  - \* Wise or witty, or both
  - \* Often universal; sometimes reveal specifics of culture
  - \* Adjustable: we can change the language

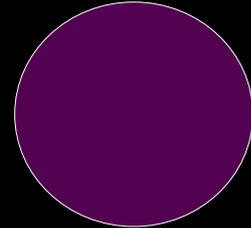


Why  
proverbs?

- 
- 
- 
- \* All over the internet!
  - \* They are searchable
  - \* Great for comparisons or focus:  
grammar, vocabulary, or theme
  - \* Metaphoric: train critical  
thinking and interpretative  
skills



Why  
proverbs?



\* Make great writing frames



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**But the best  
reason to use  
proverbs...  
(Drum roll  
please...)**

Why  
proverbs?

# Short complete texts!

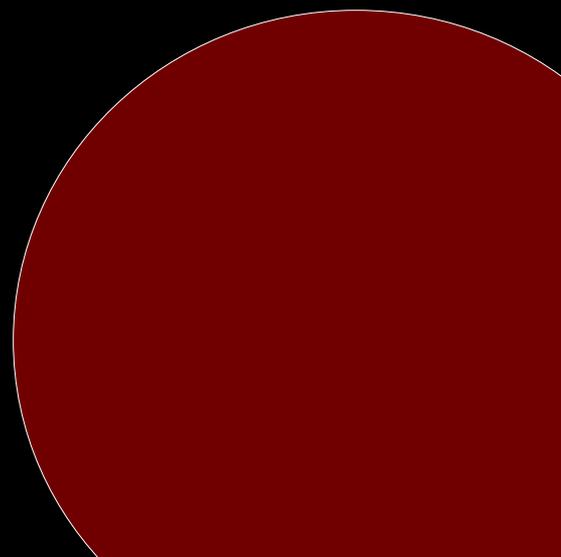
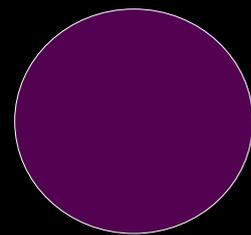
Applause  
please

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What's the  
big  
deal?



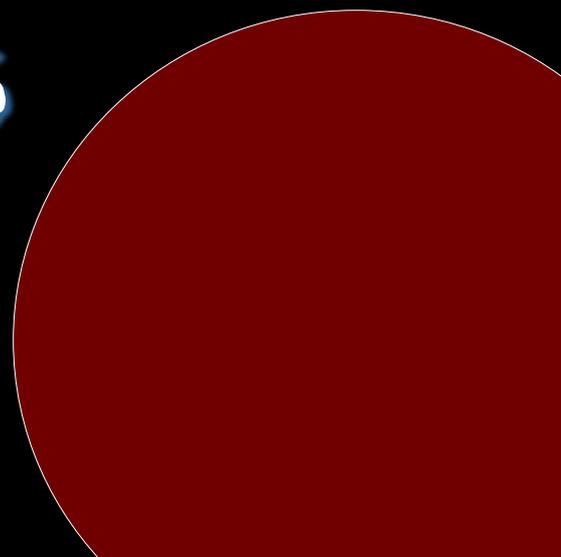
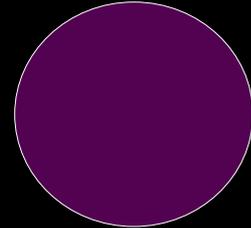
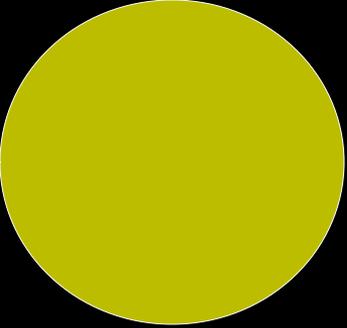
*very short texts in language learning*



What's the  
big  
deal?

- \* Complete. Need nothing more
- \* Little or no prep time
- \* Little risk in time investment
- \* Easy fit in class hour
- \* Easy fit in lesson/syllabus
- \* Easy to extended

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# Fun Stuff & Surprises



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Surprises!

1. At some point you'll see  
this smiley face:



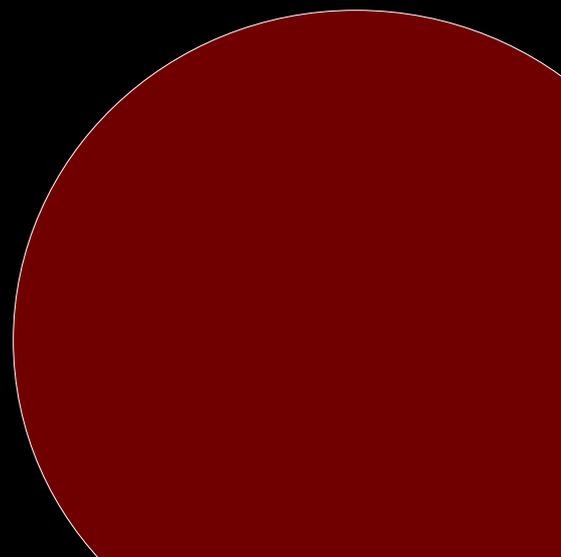
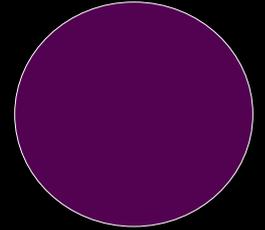
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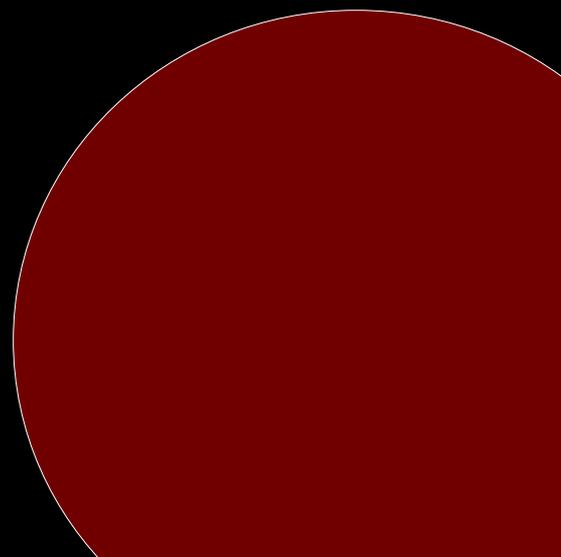
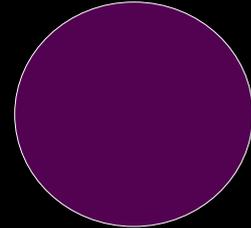
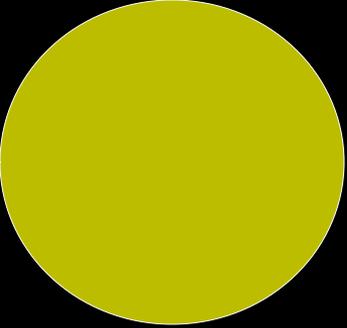
Surprises!



At some point, you'll hear the  
call to our Brain Break...



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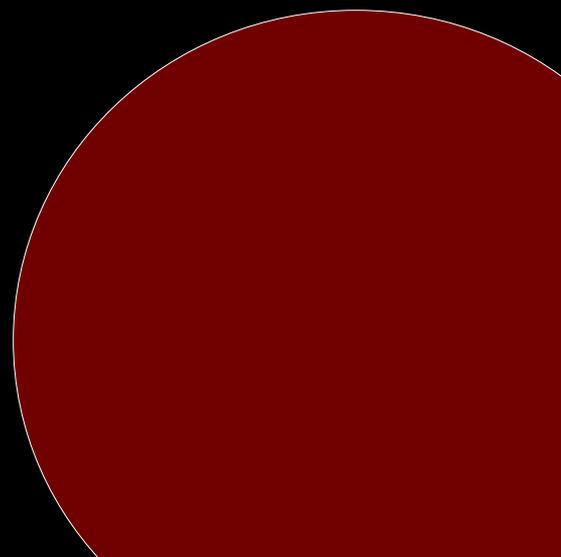
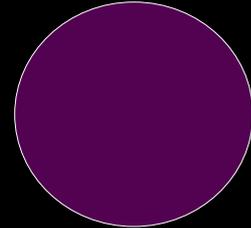
# Activities



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Activities



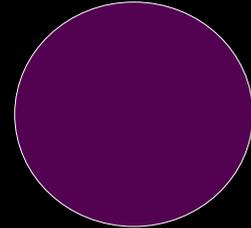
# Meaning / Interpretation



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Meaning



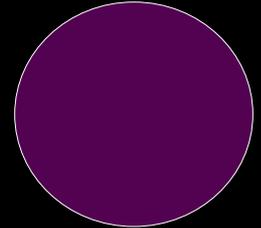
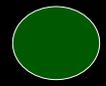
*You can't judge a  
book by its cover.*



Some are  
simple;



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*The stomach has no windows.*



some not  
so simple;



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Meaning



*A frog's mucus has a healing  
effect on the sea.*



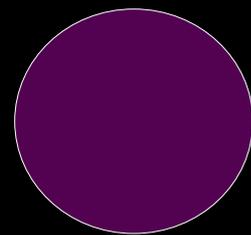
some are  
downright  
strange.



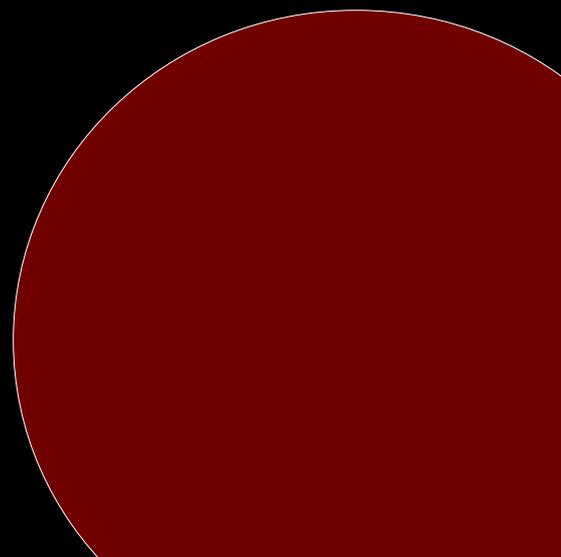
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Activities



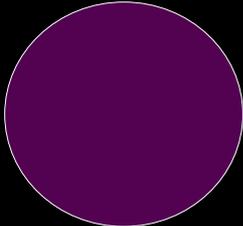
# Dictation



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Activities



# Loop Dictation



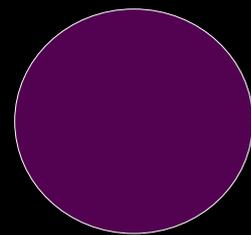
Listen to the  
audio called  
“Your Head”



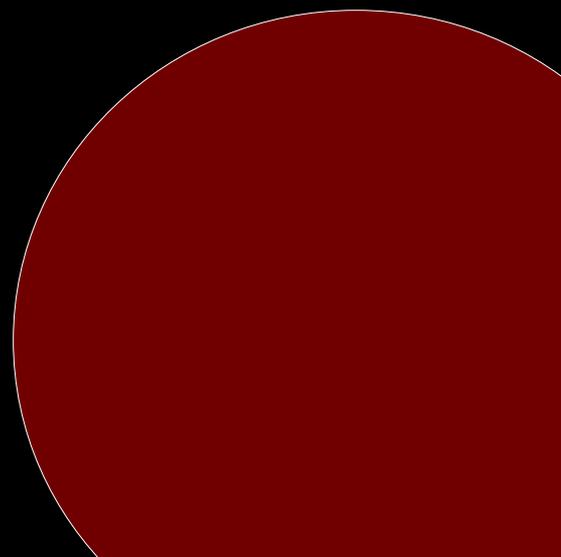
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Activities



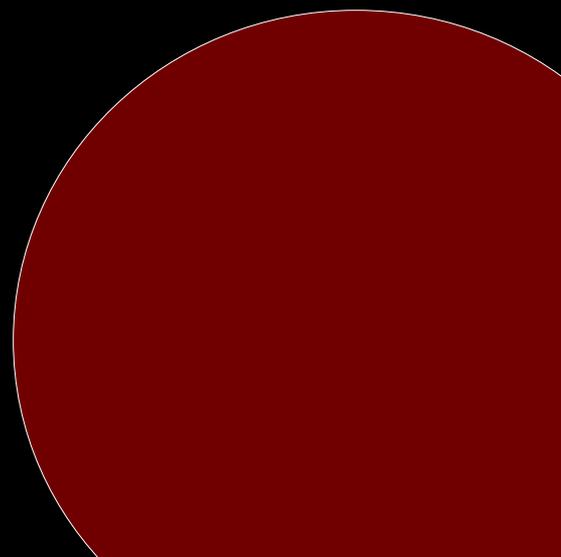
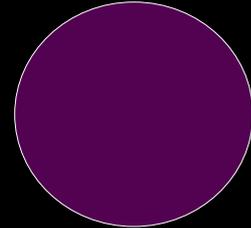
# Matching



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Activities



# Scramble



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Scramble

*by*

*little*

*grow*

*Little*

*the*

*bananas.*



*very short texts in language learning*

Scramble

*only to rain*

*it*

*have forks.*

*would were soup,*

*the poor If*

# Proverbs & Quotables

aphorism      maxim      truism

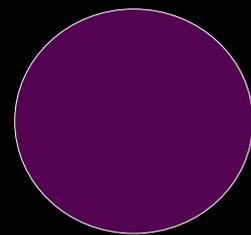
moral      dictum      definition  
&  
Redefinition

saying      epigram

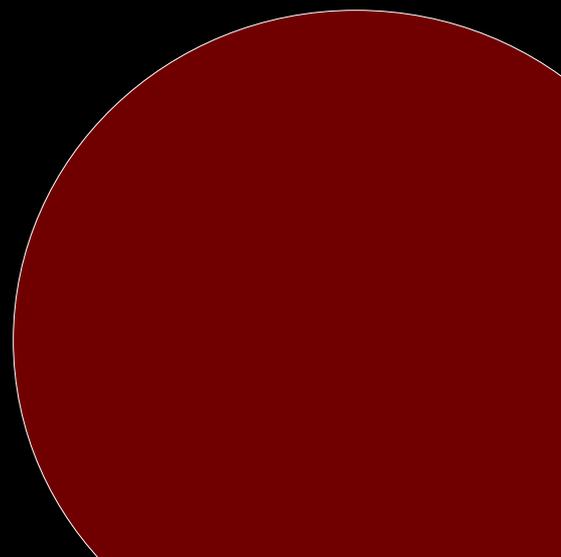
quotations      adage      witticism



Activities



# Gap Fills



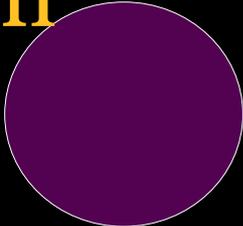
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Gap Fills



beauty charmer notices woman



*“A \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ you  
notice; a \_\_\_\_\_ is a woman  
who \_\_\_\_\_ you.”*



Adlai  
Stevenson

# Gap Fills

*“A beauty is a woman you notice; a charmer is a woman who notices you.”*

Adlai  
Stevenson

Create  
your  
own

“A \_\_\_\_\_ *(noun)* is an animal you \_\_\_\_\_  
*(verb)*; a \_\_\_\_\_ is a animal who  
\_\_\_\_\_ *(verb)* you.”

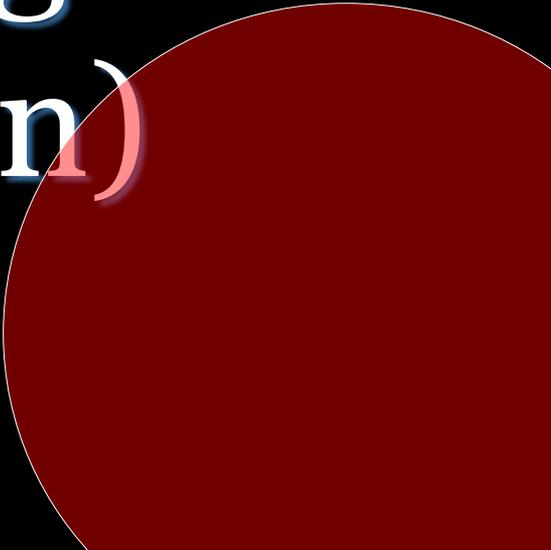
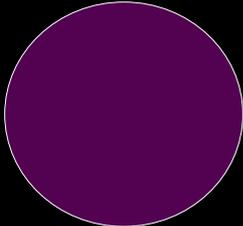
Activities

# Agree or Disagree

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Activities



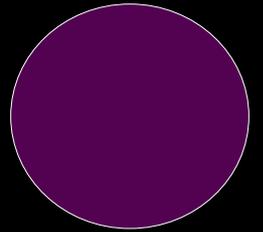
Arrange by  
Theme  
Grammar  
Country of Origin  
Source (person)



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*A chicken that \_\_\_\_\_ (**hatch**)  
a crocodile's egg \_\_\_\_\_  
(**look**) for trouble.*



Put the verb  
in the correct  
form

*If you \_\_\_\_\_ (escape) the  
jaws of the crocodile  
while bathing in the  
river, you \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) a  
leopard on the way home.*

Put the verb  
in the correct  
form

# “Could” or “Should”

1. *He who takes a light to find a snake \_\_\_\_\_ start at his own feet.*

2. *If a child washes his hands he \_\_\_\_\_ eat with kings.*

# “Could” or “Should”

1. *He who takes a light to find a snake **should** start at his own feet.*

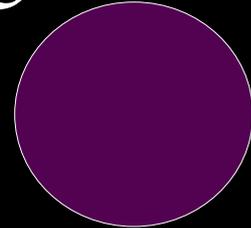
2. *If a child washes his hands he **could** eat with kings.*



Challenge



*Give a man a fish and you feed  
him for day.*



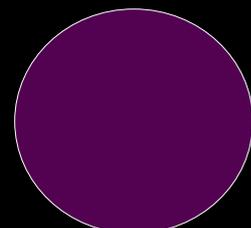
*Teach a man to fish and you  
feed him for a lifetime*



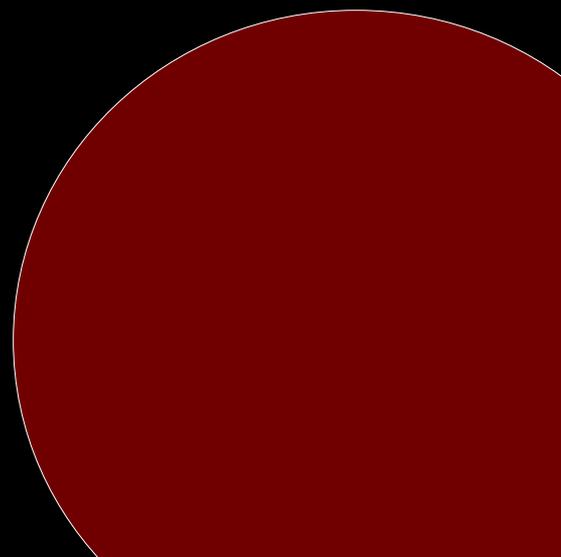
Except if...  
But what if...  
Not necessarily...



Activities



# Challenge the Proverb



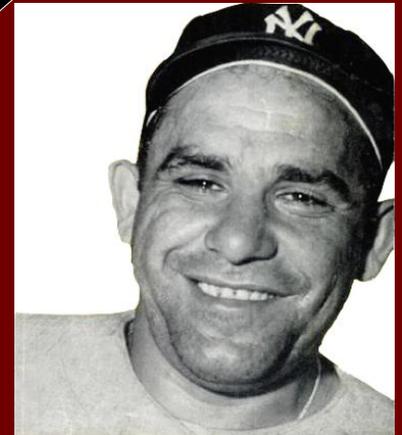
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Activities

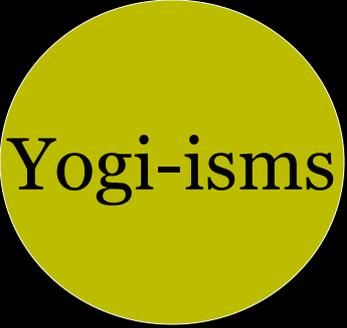
# Yogi Berra

American Baseball Player

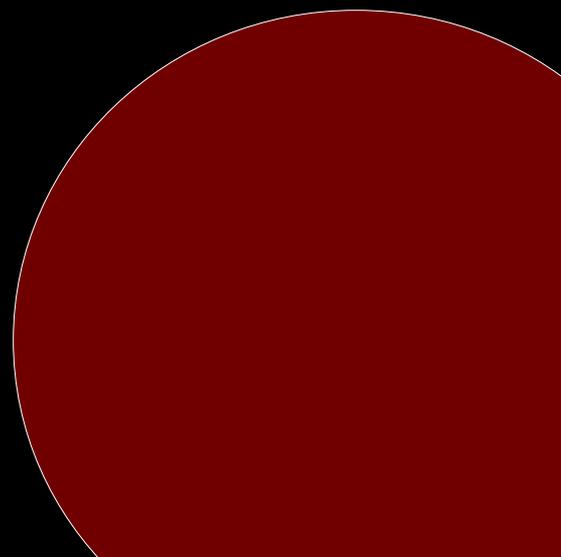
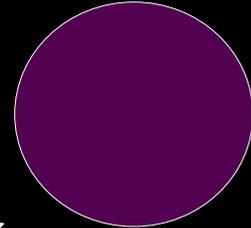
Born 1925



*Photo: wikipedia commons*



Yogi-isms

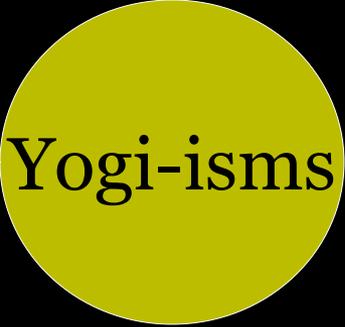


*“Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical.”*

Should  
Or  
Could?

*“When you come to a fork  
in the road, take it.”*

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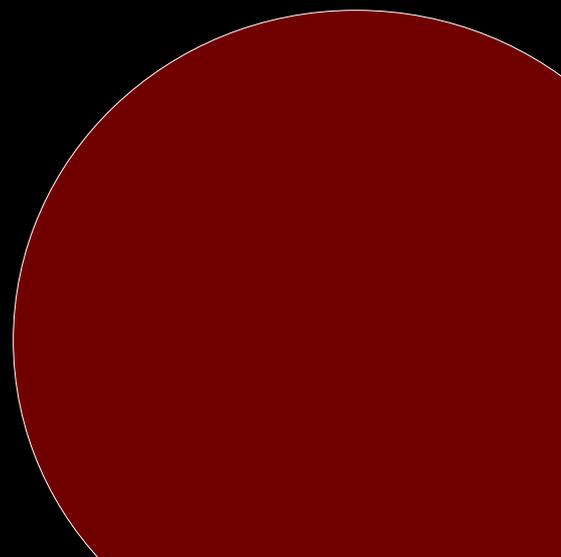
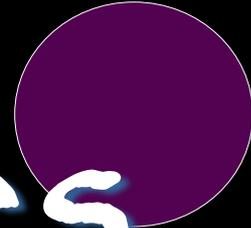
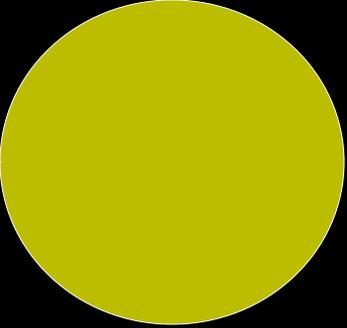


Yogi-isms

*[Speaking about a restaurant]*



*“Nobody goes there anymore  
because it’s too crowded.”*



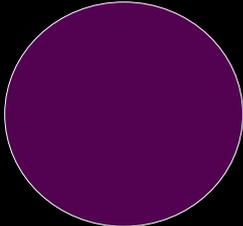
# Writing Frames



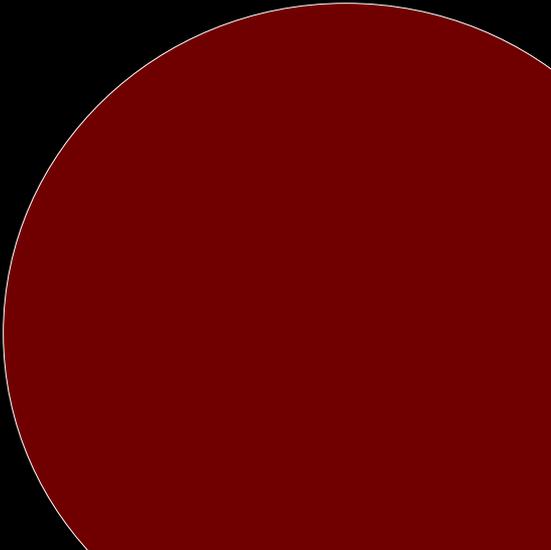
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Activities



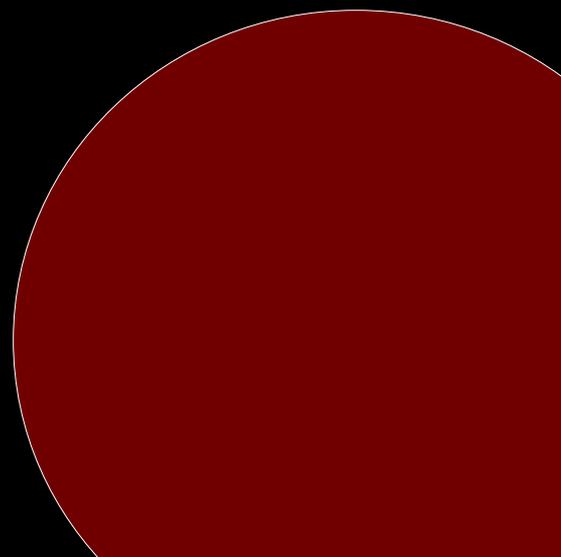
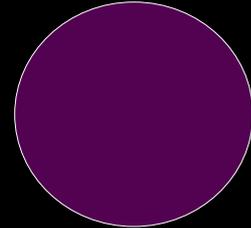
“My students  
can’t write.”



*very short texts in language learning*



Writing  
Frames



A writing frame  
is a model  
or pattern



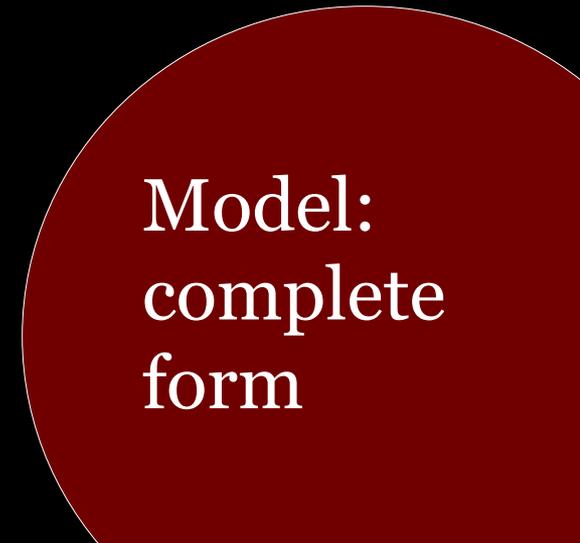
*very short texts in language learning*



Writing  
Frames



*Brothers love each other when  
they are equally rich.*



Model:  
complete  
form



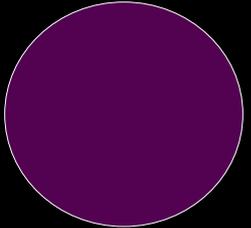
*very short texts in language learning*



Writing  
Frames



*Brothers love each other  
when...*



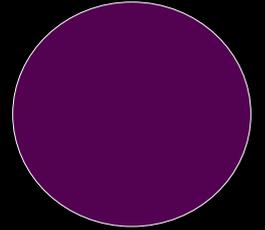
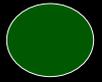
Partial  
proverb



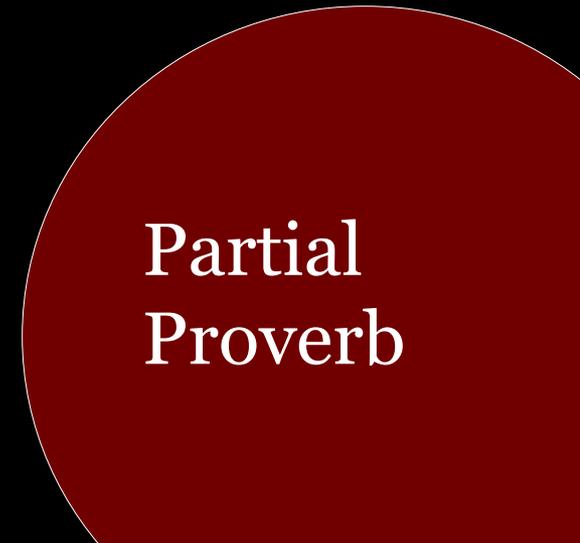
*very short texts in language learning*



Writing  
Frames



*Mice love each other when....*



Partial  
Proverb



*very short texts in language learning*

Writing  
Frames

*Brothers love each other  
except when...*

Partial  
proverb

*very short texts in language learning*

Writing  
Frames

*Children get jealous of each  
other when...*

Partial  
proverb

*very short texts in language learning*

Writing  
Frames

*Woman love men who....*

Partial  
Proverb

*very short texts in language learning*

# Partial Proverbs

1. Students get the first half of proverbs.
2. They complete them in pairs or groups. They should be creative. There's not a correct answer.
3. They receive the actual complete proverb.
4. They compare and discuss.

Finish  
the  
proverb

*A bird doesn't sing  
because he's got the  
answer.*

*A bird sings because...*

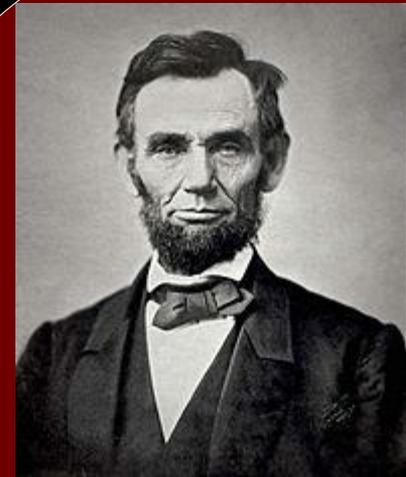
Finish  
the  
proverb

*A bird doesn't sing  
because he's got the  
answer.*

*A bird sings because  
he's got a song*

Finish  
the  
quote

*“Give me six hours to  
chop down a tree and I  
will spend the first four...”*

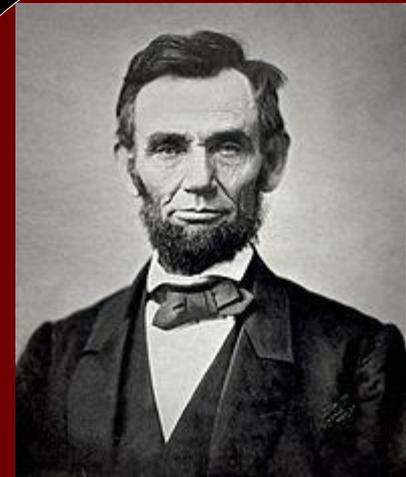


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Finish  
the  
quote

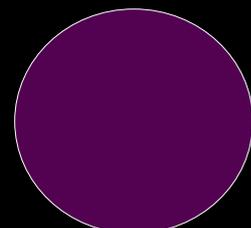
*“Give me six hours to chop  
down a tree and I will  
spend the first four  
sharpening the ax.”*

*very short texts in language learning*

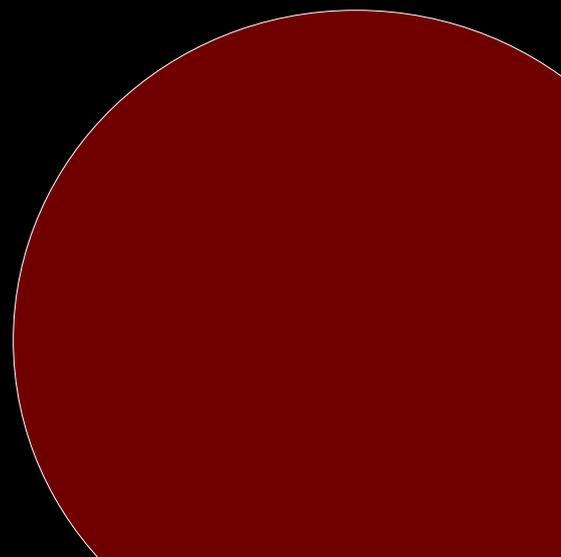




Partial  
Proverbs



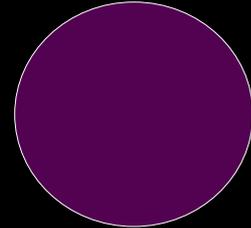
*Don't buy a house, buy...*



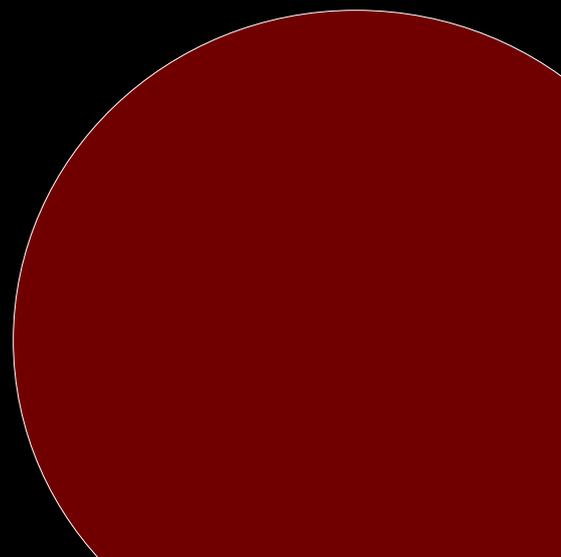
*very short texts in language learning*



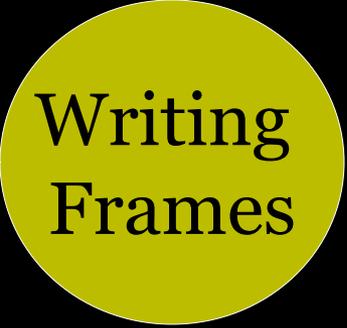
Partial  
Proverbs



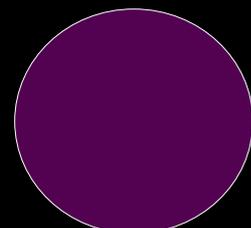
*Don't buy a house, buy  
a neighbor.*



*very short texts in language learning*



Writing  
Frames



Listen to  
The audio:  
“Kiss”



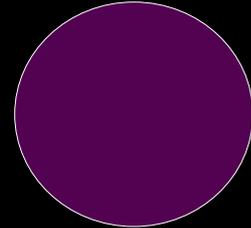
*very short texts in language learning*



Writing  
Frames



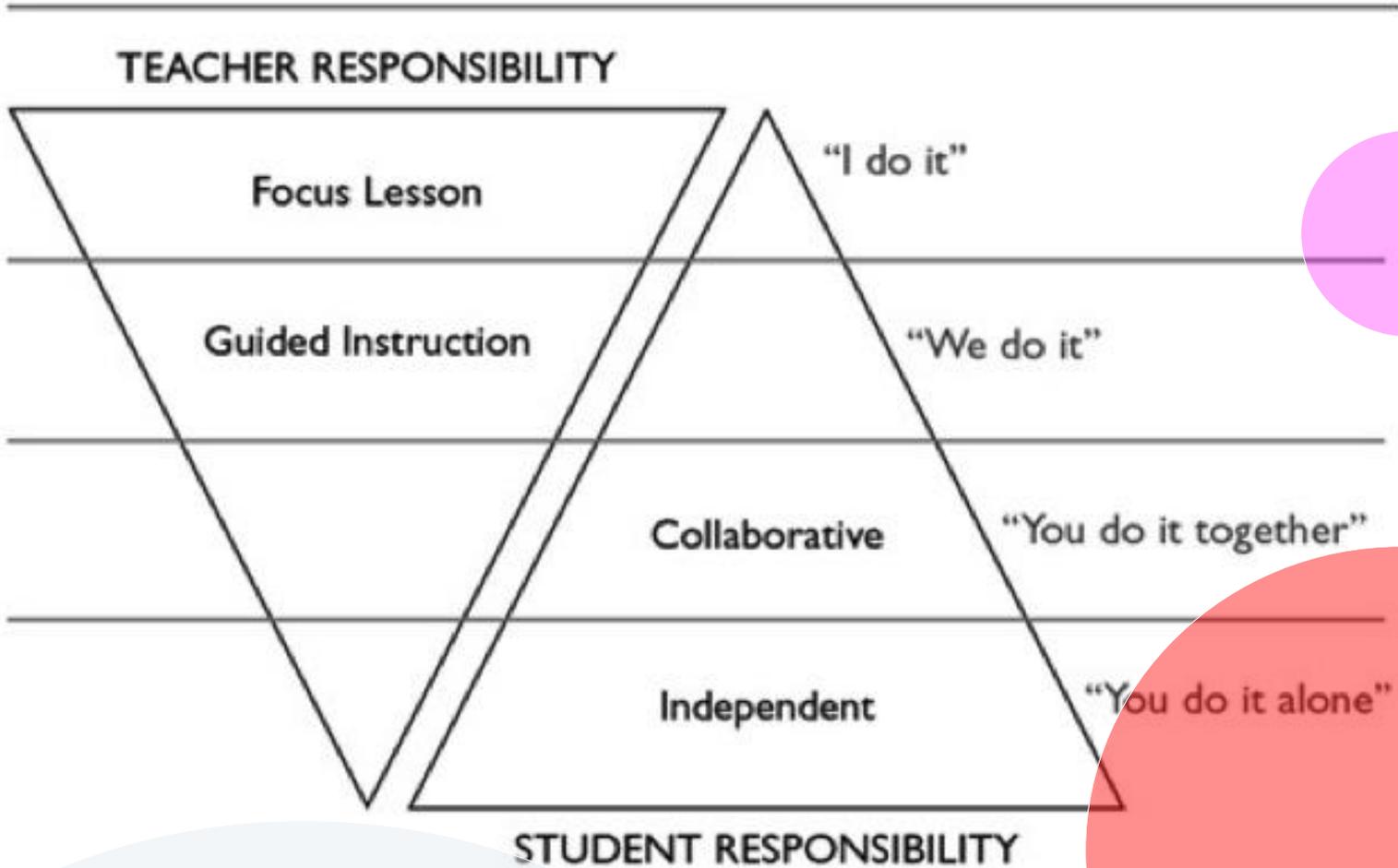
*Cause 1: The \_\_\_\_\_ one  
wouldn't...*



*Cause 2: The \_\_\_\_\_ one  
wouldn't....*

*Effect: And ...*

Gradual Release of Responsibility INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL



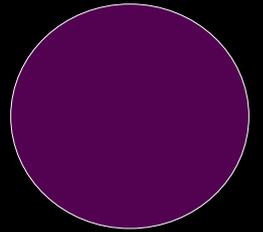
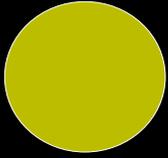


Illustration by Arthur Rackham - Wikipedia Commons

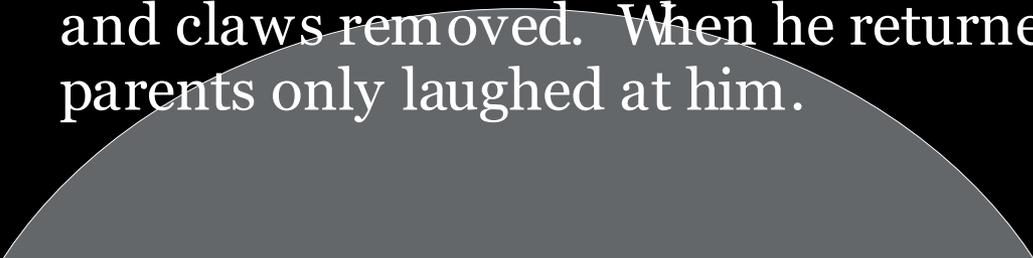
# The Lion in Love



There was once a lion who fell in a love with a girl in the village. The lion was desperately in love, so in love that he went to her home, and asked the girl's parents permission to marry her. That was a frightening idea to the parents, but they did not want to offend the King of the Beasts.

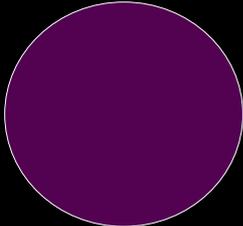
“Well,” the mother said, “first off let me say how very honored we are. But because you are so strong, we are afraid that in showing affection you might accidentally hurt our daughter. If you agree to have your teeth and claws removed, we will give your proposal of marriage very serious consideration.”

The lovestruck lion was overjoyed, and rushed off to have his teeth and claws removed. When he returned to claim his bride, the girl's parents only laughed at him.



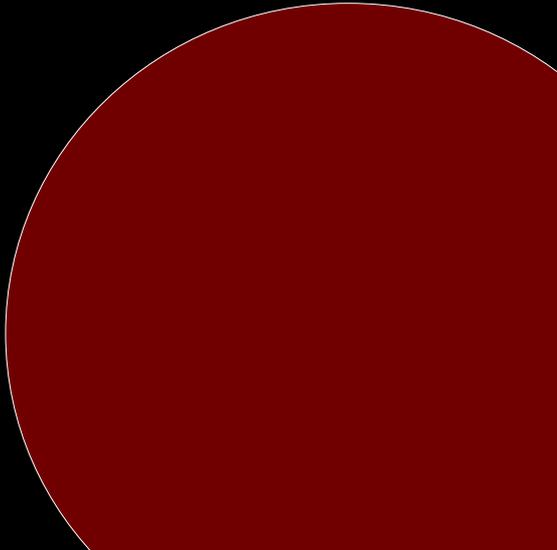


Activities

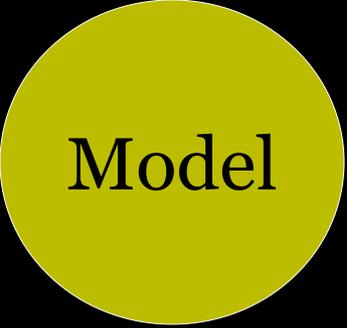


# Wise **L**ikening**s**

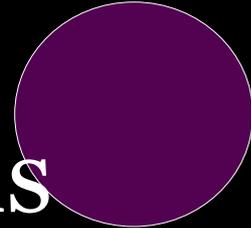
with a semicolon



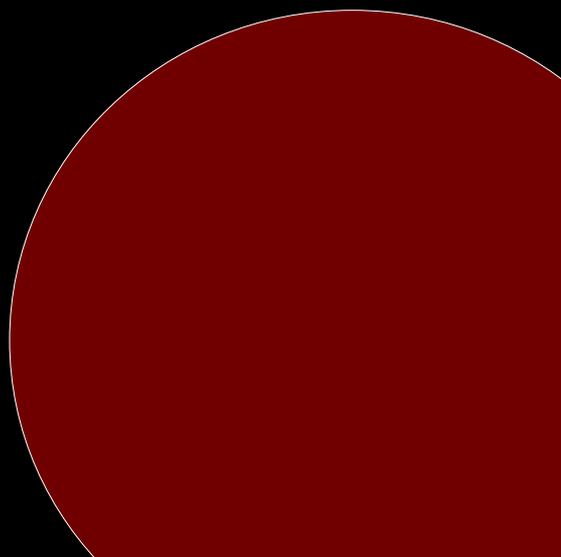
*very short texts in language learning*



Model



Scandal is like an egg; when it is hatched, it has wings.



*very short texts in language learning*



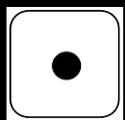
simile

Opinions are like nails;  
the more often you hit them the  
deeper they penetrate.

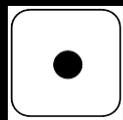
semi-  
colon

clarification

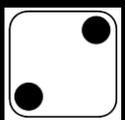
*very short texts in language learning*



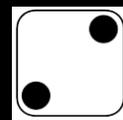
Love



shark



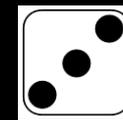
Money



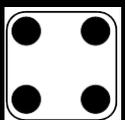
lake



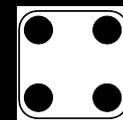
Time



basket of eggs



Your health



dragon



The future



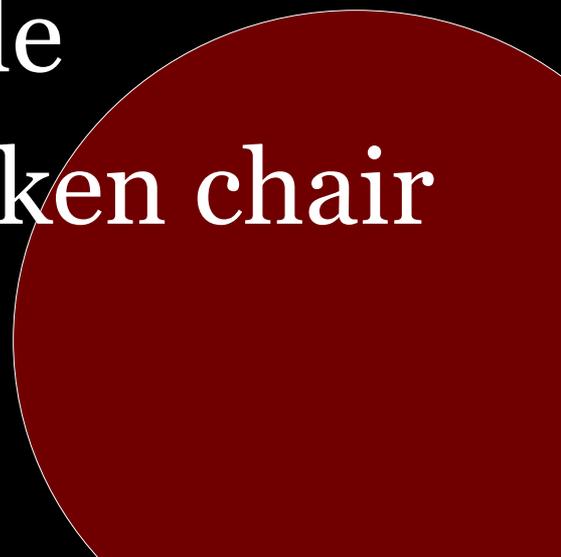
candle



Greed



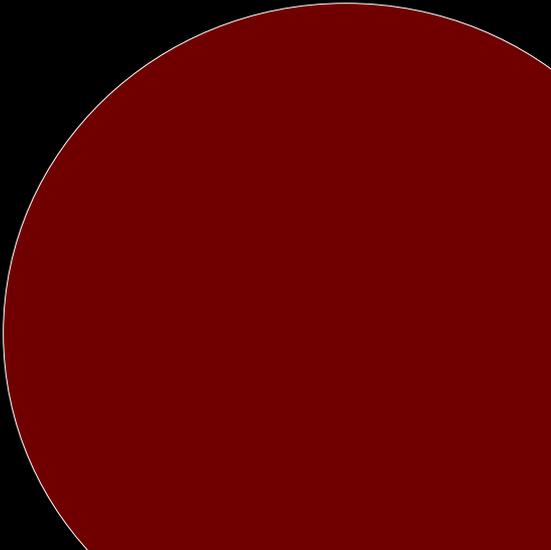
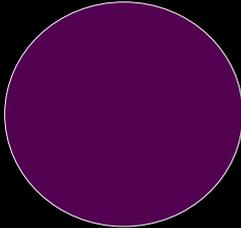
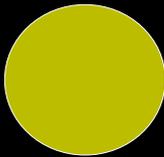
a broken chair



By the way...

# Dice Alternatives

- Make from paper
- Use a number 2 pencil
- Use coins
- Have students devise a method



# Extending



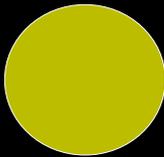
*very short texts in language learning*

Proverb  
Into  
Poem

*When God made time,  
He made plenty of it.*

Proverb  
Into  
Poem

*When God made time,  
he made plenty of it.  
He left it lying around,  
A little more in the country  
than in the town.*



# Remember...

Short Complete Texts are super useful



Writing frames help students writing:  
both language and ideas



# Proverbs & Quotables:

Using *Very Short Texts* for Language Learning



**A E** AMERICAN ENGLISH

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