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INTRODUCTION

Reproducible worksheets have unquestionably played a prominent role in education beginning with the invention of the ditto machine or spirit master, photocopier, overhead projector, and now the “Smart Board.”

Worksheets serve as an important tool in supplementing, reinforcing, and expanding your lessons. No matter how good or complete the content of your textbook or curriculum may be, there will always be a need to fill in the gaps in knowledge and skills your students were assumed to have learned.

The crossword puzzle has been around since Egyptian times. They first appeared in English during the 1800s in London. Ever since 1913, when the first American crossword puzzle appeared in the New York World, the crossword puzzle has become an important vocabulary learning tool both in recreational and educational terms. Simon and Schuster produced the first crossword puzzle book for recreational use in the 1920s. Today, crosswords are found in daily newspapers, magazines, and crossword books. The crossword puzzle has become an effective vocabulary learning tool and unquestionably plays a prominent role in education.

The value of crossword puzzles in teaching English as a Second language is clear.

Crossword puzzles help students:

- review and understand already-taught materials in a new way
- develop dictionary skills
- develop writing and spelling skills
- have fun in doing challenging vocabulary building assignments
- improve reasoning, spelling, deciphering, and word attack skills
- keep their minds active
- learn new words on a topic
- make inferences, evaluating choices, and drawing conclusions
- refresh and help retain the vocabulary they have just learned
- visualize the new words through photos
- continue learning outside of the classroom

Crossword puzzles help teachers:

- supplement textbooks and curriculum
- extend and reinforce their lessons
- keep their students' interest
- provide extra homework or classroom assignment to improve English skills
- provide pronunciation practice
- provides additional method of vocabulary building
- reinforce already-taught vocabulary words
- supplement other vocabulary building methods
- use a review tool that is less intimidating and less threatening than tests