



Idea Generator: The Anti-Writer's Block

This exercise was developed with multiple potential uses in mind. First, and foremost, as the name implies, it can be used to break free of writer's block. Second, it can be used as an exercise in creativity, with or without the intention of creating a story with it. Many established writers suggest to those starting out to "write everyday". Well this is a means to quickly jump in and start writing or sketching. Thirdly, it can serve as a creative exercise or game for children. With parents or with other children, they can take a few items from the columns below and let their imaginations run with them.

Directions: Choose one item from columns A or B. Choose one from columns C or D. And choose one from column E. Then, either begin to write, discuss, or think about a story incorporating all of these items. Remember that it is okay to personify things if needed for your story.

Column A

Deer
Elephants
Lizards
Butterflies
Monkeys
Kangaroos
Squirrels
Sharks
Stingrays
Birds
Fish
Hermit crabs
Crabs
Chickens
Cats
Dogs
Wolves
Cows
Ducks
Snakes
Pigs
Armadillos

Column B

Car/truck
Chair
Refrigerator
Dishwasher
Soap
Toothbrush
Hairbrush
Washer/dryer
Utensils
Pots/pans
Dishes
Table
Desk
Phone
Computer
TV
Remote control
Dresser
Bed/crib
Toys
Diapers
Fence
Lawnmower
Mailbox
Door

Column C

Architect
Foreman
Construction worker
Nurse
Dentist
Pharmacist
Research scientist
Engineer
Doctor
Professor
Teacher
School Principal
Chef
Mechanic
Plumber
Electrician
Carpenter
Business executive
Business owner
Investor

Column D

Eating meals
Snacks
Sleeping
Brushing teeth
Getting dressed
Washing oneself
Cleaning dishes
Picking up after oneself
Riding in a car
Getting the mail
Going to school
Doing homework

Column E

Patience
Prayer
Generosity
Honesty
Kindness
Pleasant demeanor
Helpful
Doing good
Stopping bad
Seeking knowledge
Cleanliness
Being just
Sharing
Saying nice things
Obeying parents
Respecting elders
Visiting the sick
Saying Thank You,
being thankful
Good manners
Avoiding waste
Being kind to nature
Humility
Modesty
Saying only nice things @ people
Bringing people together
Asking forgiveness
Encouraging peace
Moderation
Controlling one's anger
Controlling one's tongue