

Terrific Transitions: What to do when you don't know what to do



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Math

Magic 1098 and 198

Choose any three-digit number. Tell them you already know the answer if they calculate correctly (1089 or 198).

1. Write a three digit number.
2. Below it write the number in reverse order.
3. Subtract the smaller number from the larger number.
4. Below it write the new number in reverse order.
5. Add the last two numbers.

(If all the calculations are correct, the answer will be 1089. The only exception to this rule occurs in there is a difference of 1 between the first digit and the last digit of the initial number (627). In this case the answer will be 198.)

It Can't be 7!

1. Write a number.
2. Add 9.
3. Double the new number.
4. Subtract 4.
5. Divide the new number by 2.
6. Subtract the number you originally chose.

With no errors, 7 will always be the answer.

Progressive Addition

The first student in each row writes an addition or multiplication combination, such as $9+6$. This paper is passed back to the next person in the row. That person must write the answer to the first combination and write another numeral for the person behind him to add. Continue passing this paper until everyone in the row has had a chance. The first person must then check his row's work and hand it to the teacher.
($9+6=15+2=17+9=26+50=76$)

The Tricky Triangle

Draw a triangle on the chalkboard for students to copy. The object is to fill in the numbers from 1-9 so that the triangle sides add up to 17. (See overhead Example)

Speedy Sam & Samantha

Boy and girl stand back to back. Call out a problem like $5 \times 2 + 3 - 4 = (9)$. Each time a number is called out the student takes a step. When the teacher says “equals” the first student to turn around and call out the answer wins.

4 Corners

One student from each team or row goes to the first corner. The teacher shows a flashcard. The first student to give the correct answer moves to the next corner. Once a student has moved to all four corners he gets a point for his team/row the next player for his team/row comes up to the first corner.

Math Circle (See Example)

Personal Computers (See Examples)

English

Pantomime

Have the students act out activities (verbs) while class members guess the action.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ Eating a banana | ➤ Petting an animal |
| ➤ Eating spaghetti | ➤ Painting a fence |
| ➤ Hanging clothes on a line | ➤ Sweeping the floor |
| ➤ Setting the table for dinner | ➤ Pouring water |
| ➤ Jumping rope | |

How would you feel?

Have the students use adjectives to describe how they would feel in each of the following situations (many lend themselves to spiritual applications).

- | | |
|--|--|
| ➤ Find a \$10.00 bill | ➤ Just finished jogging around the block |
| ➤ Lose a \$10.00 bill | ➤ Find your bike has a flat tire |
| ➤ See someone else find a \$10.00 bill | ➤ Receive a package in the mailbox |
| ➤ Break your shoelace | ➤ Find your best friend just won a prize |
| ➤ Spill your food in the lunchroom | |

Oral Language Exercises

Use 10 model sentences using correct English. Read each sentence aloud to the students and have them repeat the sentence back to you. This is especially helpful with ESL students, so that they learn to recognize the correct use of words when heard in speaking situations.

Name the Opposite

Name a word and ask the students to think of its antonym (opposite). There could be more than one correct answer. This activity enables you to locate students who are confused about antonyms and synonyms.

Name the opposite for ~

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ➤ Come (go) | ➤ Wide (narrow) | ➤ Difficult (easy) |
| ➤ Brother (sister) | ➤ Wise (foolish) | ➤ Same (different) |
| ➤ Beginning (end) | ➤ Friend (enemy) | |
| ➤ Beautiful (ugly) | ➤ Humility (pride) | |

Alphabetical Order

Have students tell which should come first alphabetically.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------|
| ➤ Ant-ball | ➤ Plum-apple | ➤ Giraffe-lady |
| ➤ Hat-cow | ➤ You-me | ➤ Smile-tear |
| ➤ Man-ape | ➤ Pie-banana | |
| ➤ Eye-nose | ➤ Red-purple | |

Contractions

Combine each pair of words to form a contraction; spell the word aloud.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| ➤ Was not | ➤ I will | ➤ They will |
| ➤ Will not | ➤ Could not | ➤ Would not |
| ➤ Should not | ➤ Where is | |
| ➤ Have not | ➤ We have | |

Synonyms

Name a synonym for each of the following words.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| ➤ Giant | ➤ Contract | ➤ Fiction |
| ➤ Purchase | ➤ Shy | ➤ Fearful |
| ➤ Limited | ➤ Create | |
| ➤ Enemy | ➤ Leisure | |

Antonyms

Name an antonym for each of the following words: spell the words aloud.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| ➤ Frequent | ➤ Amateur | ➤ Antonym |
| ➤ Crooked | ➤ Shrink | ➤ Lazy |
| ➤ Coward | ➤ Necessity | |
| ➤ Private | ➤ Capture | |

Poetry

Teach a short lesson on different types of poetry and show examples. Throughout the year read examples to the students as time allows. This encourages appreciation of poetry.

Mad Libs

Used to review parts of speech (see overhead example)

Bible

Bible Review

- Review Bible memory verse of the week ~ Action Bag
- Have a sword drill
- Select a number of Bible incidents. See how many students can identify the book of the Bible in which it is recorded.

Praise Time

Take five minutes to allow students to share blessings and/or answers to prayer requests.

Science

Weatherman

For a weather unit in science, use any spare time to record weather conditions outside the classroom. Have students record cloud, wind, sun, or rain activity in a record book. Record the date and the time of the entry to make comparisons later. Student may also draw pictures of cloud activity or make drawings of the school building during various weather conditions.

Animal Map

This game encourages the development of using maps, atlases, or textbook indexes. Ask students to find as many cities, countries, etc. that have animals or birds in their names. For example, this may include Beaverton, Alabama; Moose Pass, Alaska; and Deerfield, Illinois. This is a great way to motivate your students to use reference material.

History

Loony Laws

The laws may sound loony, but they are actual laws that were written and enacted at one time or another in history! Some are still on the books. Religious beliefs, superstitions, and local customs account for some of the laws. For example, in ancient Egypt killing a cat, even by accident, was a crime punishable by death because cats were regarded as gods. Encourage your students to try to think of possible reasons for these laws. Encourage discussion about how and why a law is enacted. Or use them just for laughs.

It is against the law to:

- Fish for trout from the back of a giraffe in Idaho
- Carry ice cream cones in your pocket in Lexington, Kentucky
- Drive camels along Nevada's main highways
- Tickle a girl under the chin with a feather duster in Portland, Maine
- Sing out of tune in North Carolina
- Wear suspenders in Nogales, Arizona
- Paint a horse in Vermont
- Punch a bull in the nose in Washington, D.C.

Games

Two Choices

When two students are lined-up waiting to go to another class and there is extra time, use this time filler. Before Thanksgiving ask, "What is your pie preference: pumpkin or pecan?" Watch the gears grind when they want to give you a third choice. Use it as a lesson in obedience because the students who do not give one of the two choices have not followed the directions and obeyed.

Five Finger Drill

When you hold up five fingers the students run fast in place. As you decrease the number of fingers up the students slow their pace. When you have reached no fingers up, the students must freeze in place.

Someone's Missing!

This game involves concentration and memory skills. Choose a student to stand in a corner. Another student hides and the remaining students exchange seats. The student in the corner then opens his eyes and tries to discover who is missing. The same game may be played with objects. Place 10 to 20 objects on a table. Have the class close their eyes, then add another object or take one away. Students must guess what has been added or taken away from the collection.

Dial a Joke

Have each student prepare several *appropriate* jokes that he or she can tell. Section off a cardboard circle and write the student's number on one section. Spin a cutout arrow fastened to the center of the circle. When the arrow points to a student's number, he or she tells their joke.

Name Five

Ask a student to name 5 things you would find in each of these places:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Miss Piggy's purse | ➤ Under your bed | ➤ On the ocean floor |
| ➤ Under an automobile hood | ➤ Inside a camera | ➤ Inside a student's desk/locker |
| | ➤ Inside a TV set | |

Name It

- Name as many different occupations as you can in 5 minutes.
- Write a quick love note to mom, dad, brother, or sister to put beside their place at the supper table.
- Have students write their full name on a piece of paper. See how many words they can make out of their names in five minutes.
- Have students be absolutely quiet for two minutes. Afterwards, have students list all the sounds they heard.

Wiggle, Wiggle, Freeze

Class stands and teacher says, "Wiggle". Each student wiggles without talking. Teacher then says "Freeze". The class stops in whatever position they were in at that moment. Anyone caught moving is OUT.

Rain

The students sit at their desks. One row at a time students begin to rub their hands together to imitate the sound of gentle rain. Then they snap their fingers to indicate harder rainfall. Then they slap their legs to imitate a thunderstorm. Last they stomp their feet to indicate a severe storm. Slowly go back through the motions until the storm is "gone".

Silent Speed Ball

Use a soft, small classroom ball for this game.

The students form a circle around the edge of the classroom. One student begins by throwing the ball to anyone in the circle. You cannot throw the ball back to the person who threw it to you or throw to the person on either side of you. The object is to throw the ball quickly and remain quiet. If the ball is missed or dropped, that student is out and sits down. Continue to play until one person becomes the winner.

Good Morning, Mr. Judge

One student stands at the front of the room facing the board/wall to be the “judge”. One classmate comes to the front, stands behind the “judge” and says, “Good Morning, Mr. Judge”. The child speaking should attempt to disguise his voice. The “judge” then gets one guess to identify the speaker. If the guess is correct, the “judge” remains in place. If the guess is wrong, the speaker replaces the judge.

Miscellaneous

Discover

Teach students to brainstorm by asking this question: “How many uses can you find for a ...?”

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| ➤ paper clip | ➤ popcorn | ➤ shoelace |
| ➤ comb | ➤ handkerchief | ➤ key |
| ➤ cracker | ➤ egg carton | ➤ toothbrush |
| ➤ pencil | ➤ paper bag | ➤ crayon |
| ➤ spoon | ➤ button | ➤ envelope |

Line-Up Ideas

- Use flashcards for a quick review of facts. As the students are leaving their row to line-up, they answer the flashcard fact before joining the line.
- Call letter. If the letter is in child’s first name, line up.
- Call specific colors of clothes being worn.
- Name teachers of previous years. Students line up as the name of a teacher they’ve had is called.
- Call out kinds of pets. Children line up as their kind of pet is called. (Remember to include no pet at all.)

Colorful Food

Everyone cheered the day they put the new machine in the cafeteria. However, it was a little risky. We had to choose our new menu by the color of the foods. Guess what you might get if you pushed these colors on the machine:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------|
| ➤ dark red | ➤ medium green | ➤ purple |
| ➤ black | ➤ white | ➤ brown |
| ➤ orange | ➤ blue | |
| ➤ dark green | ➤ yellow | |

Sixty Second Stretch

Either the teacher or a student comes to the front of the classroom to lead the class in exercises. Start with breathing, then stretching, and finish with 20 jumping jacks.

Check and Clean

To encourage students to keep their desk and area clean, have a timed “clean-up” session. Set a timer in your room or do a countdown to complete the clean up time. Give 60 seconds to pick-up and straighten desks. The best row gets a piece of candy as a prize.

Careers

Ask the students to think about the following careers:
What would you give him/her for a useful gift?

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| ➤ umpire | ➤ gardener | ➤ painter |
| ➤ baker | ➤ housekeeper | ➤ nurse |
| ➤ cartoonist | ➤ janitor | ➤ optometrist |
| ➤ detective | ➤ judge | ➤ police officer |
| ➤ bus driver | ➤ pilot | ➤ secretary |
| ➤ fireman | ➤ locksmith | |

Speak Out!

Ask the students to think about the following objects. If these objects were granted the ability to speak, what would they say?

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| ➤ old tennis shoes | ➤ back door |
| ➤ hammer | ➤ trash can |
| ➤ spider | ➤ baseball |
| ➤ fishing pole | ➤ rocking chair |

The ABC Picnic

This helps develop memory and sequential skills.

Start by saying, “I’m going on a picnic and I’m going to pack an apple.” The next child repeats what you said and adds another item to your list. The child might say, “I’m going on a picnic, and I’m going to pack an apple and a beach ball.” When you get through the alphabet, go back to the a’s. If someone forgets to repeat everything in order, he or she is out.

Who would you meet?

Ask the students to think about these locations. What type of people would you meet?

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| ➤ service station | ➤ telephone | ➤ research |
| ➤ TV studio | ➤ company | ➤ laboratory |
| ➤ police station | ➤ coal mine | ➤ forest ranger’s |
| ➤ grocery store | ➤ prison | ➤ station |
| ➤ hospital | ➤ farm or zoo | |
| ➤ dentist office | ➤ submarine | |

Miscellaneous Academic

Word Jar

Put previous reading or spelling vocabulary words on a strip on paper and put into a jar. Have a student pull one strip out of the jar and tell the meaning of the word and/or use the word correctly in a sentence.

Lots of Languages

Teach students to count to 10 in 10 different languages. They enjoy the excitement of learning a different way to count.

Fly Swatter

Have vocabulary words on the board. When the definition is read, have two students waiting with fly swatters at the board. The first one to “swat” the correct word wins.

I’m Going on a Trip

The object of the game is to name a place and something you will take with you, that begins with the initial letter of your name. For example, Susie says, “I’m going to Syracuse, and I’m taking a sack.” Continue through the classroom until everyone has a turn or until your time is gone.

Rhythm Game

Instruct the students to clap both hands on their desk twice, clap them together twice, snap their fingers twice, and start again. When they pick up the rhythm, you name a category such as animals. When you snap your fingers, name an animal. The next student has a few seconds while clapping his or her hands to think of another kind of animal, and name it while snapping his or her fingers. Continue through the classroom or until your time is gone.

Ghost

The game is good for listening skills, geography review, and spelling review. Begin by naming a state or a country. The next student must name a state or country that begins with the last letter of the word that the preceding person gave. For example:

First person: “Texas”

Second person: “Scotland”

Third person: “Delaware”

If the fourth person can’t think of a state or country beginning with the letter e (the last letter in the word Delaware), that person gets a g, which is the first letter of the word ghost. The fifth student must name a state or country starting with the letter e, such as England. Anyone who misses earns a g-h-o-s-t. When ghost is spelled the game is over. This game can be adapted to review the names of streets, flowers, animals, or any other subject for review.

Fascinating Facts

Use these fascinating facts to fill in spare minutes. The challenge is to encourage discussion, stories, and pictures from the facts.

- There is a town in Chile where it has never rained.
- Hummingbirds can fly backwards.
- A squirrel has no color vision; it can only see in black and white.
- Butterflies taste with their hind feet.
- Human eyes can distinguish nearly 8 million shades of colors.
- An ant can lift 50 times its own weight.
- It takes 17 muscles to smile, 43 to frown.
- The sun is not seen for 186 days a year at the North Pole.
- The human body has 70,000 miles of blood vessels.
- There are about 800,000 words in the English language.
- The human brain is 80% water.
- The average American sees or hears 560 advertisements a day.
- A whale's heart beats only nine times per minute.

What Doesn't Belong?

Have the students find the word that doesn't belong in the following groups:

- happy, ecstatic, melancholy, pleased
- pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers, plate
- noodle, danger, saddle, candle
- baseball, football, hockey, volleyball
- tallest, shortest, longer, smallest
- hands, feet, nose, arms
- hat, coat, ankle, pants
- lion, wolf, cat, leopard
- red, blue, yellow, purple
- ice cream, candy, eggs, cake

Can You Give Me 5?

Ask a student to name five of the following subjects:

- vowels
- states
- factors of 20
- cities in Florida
- countries in Europe, Asia, Africa
- farm, swamp, zoo, or forest animals
- names for Jesus
- Old/New Testament Books
- colors or shapes
- nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives
- sets of homonyms, synonyms, or antonyms
- U. S. Presidents
- planets
- Christian character traits
- parts of a friendly letter
- prime factors
- explorers or scientists
- odd/even numbers

Sparkle

All students stand. Each student says one letter of a spelling word. When the word is spelled, the next student says the word and “sparkle”. The next student is out and sits down. If any student says the wrong letter he is also out. The last person standing is the winner.

(Can also be used with Bible verse ~ each person says a word.)

Challenge Notebook

Each student has their own folder filled with worksheets, puzzles, word finds, brain teasers, and word problems. Encourage students to use their free time by completing as many pages as time allows each week.

What Am I?

Played like 20 questions. Start by saying, “I’m thinking of a word that means ...” (use definitions to vocabulary words or spelling words). The students have to guess what the word is, and then they can ask the next question.

Hangman

Choose a spelling or vocabulary word and put only blanks which correspond with the number of letters in the word. Allow students to guess what letters belong in each blank. Any letters which are not in the word cause another part of the “hangman” to be added. The object is to spell the word before the “hangman” is done.

Silly Songs

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Sing the song as usual the first time through. Then sing with the following words plus the actions which go with it.

Clap, clap, clap your hands

Shake them in the breeze,

Stomp your feet and turn around

And sit down if you please.

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head and shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes, knees and toes

Head and shoulders, knees and toes, clap your hands for Jesus.

I'm Singing in the Rain

I'm singin' in the rain.
just singin' in the rain.
What a glorious feeling..

(Do rain motions)
I'm ch--ch ch ,ch--ch ch, ch--chchch!
Woo, ch--ch ch ,ch--ch ch, ch--chchch!

Thumbs up! (students repeat--"thumbs up"!)

(Sing chorus while thumbs are up.)

I'm singin' in the rain.
just singin' in the rain.
What a glorious feeling..

(Do rain motions)
I'm ch--ch ch ,ch--ch ch, ch--chchch!
Woo, ch--ch ch ,ch--ch ch, ch--chchch!

Continue adding:

Elbows back!

Chest out!

Knees bent!

Toes together!

Head up!

Tongue out!

Apple Red Happiness

Apple Red Happiness, Popcorn Cheerfulness, Cinnamon Singing Inside, Peppermint Energy, Gumdrops Holiday when you give Christ your life.
The benefits of God's Great Love are Super Super satisfying. So throw away life's sin, let the sunshine in, trust Him and you'll see how you get-
Apple Red Happiness, Popcorn Cheerfulness, Cinnamon Singing Inside, Peppermint Energy, Gumdrops Holiday when you give Christ your life.

Little Green Frog

Mm, Mm, went the little green frog one day
Mm, Mm, went the little green frog.
Mm, Mm, went the little green frog one day
So they all went Mm, Mm, Ah!

But we know frogs go "La-di-dah-di-dah"
"La-di-dah-di-dah", "La-di-dah-di-dah"
We know frogs go, "La-di-dah-di-dah"
They don't go Mm, Mm, Ah!

Honk, honk went the big bad truck one day,
Splish, splash went the little green frog.
His eyes don't go "Mm, Mm," anymore
'Cuz he just got eaten by a dog. Roof, Roof

Shark Song

Baby shark doo-doo, baby shark doo-doo, baby shark doo-doo, baby shark.
Mama shark doo-doo, mama shark doo-doo, mama shark doo-doo, mama shark.
Daddy shark doo-doo etc.
Grandpa shark doo-doo etc.
Goin' swimmin' doo-doo, etc.
See a shark doo-doo, etc.
Shark attack doo-doo, etc.
Lost an arm doo-doo, etc.
CPR doo-doo, etc.
It's not workin' doo-doo, etc.
Goin' to heaven doo-doo, etc.

I Went to the Animal Fair

I went to the Animal Fair, the birds and the bees were there, the big baboon by the light of the moon was combing his auburn hair. The monkey had no fear. He climbed on the elephant's ear. The elephant sneezed-Achoo! And fell on his knees. And that was the end of the monk - the monk - the monk- the monk – the monk! (This is sung in a round.)

3 Bears

Once upon a time, in a wee little cottage
there lived (there lived) the three bears (the three bears).
One was the papa bear. One was the mama bear.
One was the wee bear (the wee bear).

One day while they were walking and talking,
they came along a girl with golden hair (golden hair).
Well, her name was Goldie Locks and up upon the door she knocked,
but no one (no one), no one was there (no one was there).

So she went on in and she had herself a ball, but she didn't care (she didn't care).
Home, home, home came the three bears.
"Bu-du, bu-du, bu," said the papa bear!
"Bu-du, bu-du, bu," said the mama bear!
"Hey, Mama-she-bear," said the little wee bear, someone's been eatin' my porridge
and it's all gone.

"Bu-du, bu-du, bu," said the papa bear!
"Bu-du, bu-du, bu," said the mama bear!
"Hey, Mama-she-bear," said the little wee bear, someone's been sitin' my chair and it's
all broke.

"Bu-du, bu-du, bu," said the papa bear!
"Bu-du, bu-du, bu," said the mama bear!
"Hey, Mama-she-bear," said the little wee bear, someone's been sleepin' my bed and
there she is.

Up jumped Goldie Locks and out the door she ran (she ran).
"Bye, bye," said Papa Bear.
"Bye, bye," said Mama Bear.
"Hey, Mama-she-bear," said the little wee bear, "Tu-da-loo!"

Moose Song

**Repeat each line*

There was a great big moose (hands on head like antlers)
Who liked to drink a lot of juice. (drink juice bottle)
There was a great big moose (hands on head like antlers)
Who liked to drink a lot of juice. (drink juice bottle)

Chorus:

Singin' whoa, whoa (lock finger and do a wave)
Whee oh, whee oh, whee oh, whee oh! (open hands and circle wipe as you go down)
Singin' whoa, whoa (stir bucket motions)
Whee oh, whee oh, whee oh, whee oh! (pointer fingers in the air and move up and down)

The moose's name was Fred. (antlers)
He liked to drink his juice in bed. (lay head back and drink)
The moose's name was Fred. (antlers)
He liked to drink his juice in bed. (lay head back and drink)

Chorus

He drank his juice with care, (drink)
But he split some on his hair. (wipe hair on arm)
He drank his juice with care, (drink)
But he split some on his hair. (wipe hair on arm)

Chorus

**All together*

There was a mooooooooooooooooooooooose (antlers)
All full of juuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuice (hold hands out like you have a full belly)
On the loooooooooooooooooose (stand on one leg and lean forward with arms stretched out)

Last Chorus!

Music Hunter

I am the music hunter.

I come from Slavic land.

My name is Shme-o-lin.

I am the violin.

Vio-vio-viola, viola viola, vio-vio-viola, vio-vio-la
(pretend you are playing the violin)

I am the music hunter.

I come from Slavic land.

My name is Shme-o-lin.

I am the piano.

Ping-ping-ping-.....

(pretend you are playing the piano)

I am the tuba.

Hoopa, hoopa....

(chicken arms as you hop)

I am the Bag-pipe.

(pinch nose and touch throat with other hand)

*nasal sound----Me, me, me....

I am the Soprano.

(hold hand together like an opera singer)

La, la, la.....

I am the Conductor.

(silently lead the music with hands—sing to self)

I am the Audience.

(clap)

*Each time you add a part you repeat all the previous parts

---all done to the same beat and tune.

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Sources

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