



## EXPANDING MY VOCABULARY

This sheet suggests **ways of working in tandem** through different exercises.

For each exercise, it is important to **choose a language for speaking** and to stick to it. It can then be repeated in the other language.


After the exercise, take time to **discuss it with your tandem partner** and **write down your impressions**.

What did you learn? From a linguistic point of view as well as personally?

Everyone learns differently, so do not hesitate to invent other exercises and feel free to try new things!


### GETTING STARTED

#### *Taboo*

 What are your three favourite words and three less favourite words in the other language? Write them down without showing them to your tandem partner. Try to get him/her to guess them by describing them, but without saying them.


Did this exercise encourage you to expand your vocabulary?  
Did it lead to an interesting exchange?

*Switch roles.*

 If you wish, you can repeat the exercise with difficult words, for example false friends. You can also set a time limit, for example 1 minute or 30 seconds of explanation per person per word.


### FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO MOVE

#### *Word trail*

 Choose ten difficult words from your mother tongue that you do not think your tandem partner knows. Take ten sheets of paper and write one word per sheet. Your tandem partner does the same. Then hang your ten words around you (on trees, windows, doors, benches...) to form a simple trail. Follow this route with your tandem partner and explain him the words he does not know. Then let him repeat the same route on his own. Ask him to remember each word before he reach it.

*The route can be done faster and faster. Your turn: follow the route that your tandem partner has prepared.*


Did following a regular route help you remember the words?  
Do you know why your tandem partner chose these words?

 Add more difficult words to your respective routes and repeat the exercise.




**FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE**

***Sound effects and gestures***

 Write down ten words that are difficult for you in the other language – each on a different paper. Show them to your tandem partner and explain why they seem so difficult. Together, match a gesture or a sound to each word and write down the solution on a separate sheet you keep hidden (to make sure you can find the solution when you have a doubt). Put the words face down in front of you. Each of you takes a turn to turn one of them over: the first to make the corresponding gesture or sound gets a point.


How do the gestures and sounds relate to each word?  
Were they chosen arbitrarily or for a specific reason?

*Switch roles.*

 Recapitulate, without looking at the written words, all the difficult terms in the other's language, using the corresponding gestures or sounds. You and your tandem partner will help each other if the other forgets a word, gesture or sound.

**LET'S GET SERIOUS**


***Video exchange***

 Look for a short video (approx. 5 minutes) in the other's language on a topic that you are interested in. Watch it with your tandem partner and take note of the vocabulary that is new to you.

*Your tandem partner can act as a dictionary and explain the new terms to you.*

Did the explanations of your partner help you memorise the new words?  
Is it easier to learn several vocabulary terms when they belong to the same context?


*Switch roles.*

 Ask your tandem partner to complete your notes with other terms from the same context and to help you find memory tricks to remember them.



## LINGUISTIC TOURISM


### *Short trip*

-  Go on a short trip (at the library, museum, shop, etc.) with your tandem partner and aim to learn at least ten new words. Write them down, together with the context of the sentence in which they were used and the translation into your mother tongue.

Did you mainly learn terms specific to one subject or did you learn many others in the course of the conversation?


Did you also learn anything about your tandem partner, the city, art?

*Switch roles.*

-  When you get back from your trip, ask your tandem partner to complete your notes with memory tricks to remember the difficult words.

## INTERCULTURALITY

### *Colloquial expressions*


-  Write down five colloquial expressions from your mother tongue and then try to find an equivalent expression in the other language with your tandem partner.

*If the expression is difficult to translate, it may help to look at the context in which it might be used.*

Which expressions are relatively similar in both languages and which ones did you have to translate more freely?

What is your favourite expression in the other's language?

*Switch roles.*

-  With your tandem partner, invent an expression in both languages that does not yet exist, but which you think should.



## GOING FURTHER

### **Board game**



With your tandem partner, invent a board game that will expand your vocabulary. The aim is for future players to have fun playing the game while learning new words.

*Not sure where to start? Need help with ideas or an example to build on to create your own game? Are you looking for an opportunity to test your board game?*

**NovaTris** can help you with your project according to your needs! Do not hesitate to contact the tandem team: [novatris@uha.fr](mailto:novatris@uha.fr).

#### **At the end of your project, make an assessment:**

How did you feel about the experience?

Did you enjoy working together on a major project?

Did this project help you expand your vocabulary?

What did you learn ? About the other's language but also about yourself and about your tandem partner?



Does this project idea not suit you? Would you prefer to make a film on a subject that interests you and at the same time expand your vocabulary? Or organise an exhibition? Would you like to organise a theatre workshop? Or a workshop on one of your hobbies that focuses on discovering new specific words (knitting, football, etc)? Do you have another idea? We are interested in all your projects, so please be creative!

*For reasons of better readability, the masculine form is mainly used for people and personal nouns on this document. All references to persons apply equally to all genders.*

*Tandem sheet designed by NovaTris – Université de Haute-Alsace<sup>©</sup>*

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