Name _____ Date _____

Catching ideas

Before you write, catch lots of ideas and jot them down as quick notes.

1 Learn



First, writers **catch ideas** that fit the topic, like fish in a net. Then they jot each one down as a **quick note**.



How to catch ideas

1. Read the topic: **A day at the beach**.
2. Ask **who, where, when, what happened?**
3. Jot each answer in **2 to 4 words**.
4. Cross out ideas that don't fit: ~~my new bike~~

A long sentence:

"My little brother Leo built a really big sandcastle near the sea."

A quick note:

Leo: big sandcastle

Flip's tip: a note only needs the **key words**. Leave out little words like *the*, *a* and *was*.

Warm up: draw a ring round the **quick note** in each box.

We sat on the sea wall to eat chips.	seagull stole chip
chips on sea wall	A cheeky seagull stole my chip!

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud. If your child writes whole sentences when planning, say the sentence back and ask, "Which are the most important words?" Those are the note.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Idea hunt

You need: this sheet, a pencil, three small scraps of paper and a cup or bowl.

1. Write three topics on the scraps: **Our kitchen**, **A rainy day**, **My favourite toy**. Fold them and put them in the cup.
2. Pick one. That's your topic. Write it below.
3. Look, listen and think together. What can you **see, hear, smell** and **feel**?
4. Jot each idea as a **quick note** (2 to 4 words) in the table.
5. Read your notes back. Cross out any that don't fit. Draw a ring round your **best three**.

Our topic: _____

I can see	I can hear	I can smell	I can feel

Grown-ups: take turns adding a note. If an idea wanders off the topic, ask kindly, "Does that belong to *our kitchen*?" Swap topics and play again.

3 Practise

A. The topic is **A trip to the zoo**. Draw a ring round each idea that fits. Cross out each idea that doesn't fit.

lion roaring	my spelling test	penguins swimming	packed lunch
new school shoes	map of the zoo	tidying my bedroom	monkeys swinging

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B. Turn each long sentence into a **quick note** of 2 to 4 words.

Our grey cat, Smudge, sleeps on the warm sofa all afternoon.	It rained so hard that the whole garden turned into a muddy puddle.	Mia's grandad showed us how to fold a paper aeroplane.
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

C. Mia jotted notes about her day. Draw a line from each question to its note.

Who? ●	**Where?** ●	**When?** ●	**What happened?** ●
● Sunday morning	● kite stuck in a tree	● Gran and me	● at the park

D. Make your own idea web for **My best day ever**. Write a quick note in each box.



Challenge

Sam is planning **My pet dog**. He says his notes are ready. Are they? What **two things** would you change?

_____

_____

Sam's notes
- Biscuit, brown fur
- loves long walks
- I like pizza
- Once upon a time there was a dog called Biscuit who lived in a house with a red door.

I can... Tick when you can.

☐ think of ideas that fit my topic ☐ ask who, where, when, what? ☐ jot quick notes