ACTIVITIES TO DO ON YOUR OWN

ESOL Stage I



CONTENTS

In this booklet, you will find some tasks to do on your own to help you with your English skills.

There are tasks for:	Page
Listening	4
Speaking	6
Writing	7
Reading	12

For each task you can fill in a 'Task Reflection Sheet' to say:

- what you thought about it
- what was easy
- what was hard.

There are 15 texts to read with different tasks to do. For each text, you can fill in a reading log. This will give you a record of your reading. You can use your reading log for other reading you do, too.

You can also keep a viewing log for what you watch and a listening log to record new words you hear.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your tutor or somebody else who can help you.

TASK REFLECTION SHEET

How did you like this task?

(Circle one)











Liked it a lot

Didn't like it much

Didn't like it at all

Why/why not?				
				······
How easy was it? (Circle one)				
****	****	****	****	****
Easy	Quite easy	Ok	Quite hard	Hard
If you found it hard, - what do you need				
- how could your tu				
	tor help?			
- how could your tu	tor help?			
- how could your tu	tor help?			
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LISTENING

1. Make a listening log

Make a list of new and interesting words that you hear.

What does each word mean? How do you spell it? Use a dictionary or ask someone.

You can include words:

- you hear spoken around you
- from TV programmes you watch
- from films you watch
- from songs you listen to.

Listening log

Interesting Words									
New word	What does it mean?	Where did you hear this word?							

2. Keep a viewing log

Write down what you watch and listen to on TV and in films.

You can put:

- the date you watched it
- the title
- what it was about
- the people in the programme
- what happened
- some things you liked
- some things you didn't like.

Viewing log

Date:	Title:
Date.	Title:
What was it about?	
Who was in it?	
What happened?	
NAME	
What did you like?	
What didn't you like?	
what didn't you like:	

SPEAKING

I. Any questions?

See how many questions you can ask in a week. What question words did you use? Write them down or record them on your phone.

Questions								
Day	Question word	Who did you ask?						

Play 20 Questions with other learners.

2. Say what you think

Tell other people what you like about:

- food
- sport
- a hobby
- a film or TV programme
- a person

Tell them what you don't like – be polite! Record your views on your phone.

3. Have a chat

Say something, give your view, and ask a question! For example, when you:

- watch TV
- watch a film
- eat together
- play a game
- play a sport.

WRITING

I. Keep a journal

Every day write one sentence (or more) about what you do and what you think.

Write the date. Now choose what you want to write about, for example:

- what you did
- what you ate
- what you liked
- what you didn't like
- what you saw
- what you heard
- what went well
- what you want to do better

Put pictures in too if you want to.

Writing journal

Date:	Title Example: A new song
What did you do? What do you	think? How do you feel?

2. Be creative

Make up your own writing. Share what you write with other people: friends, other learners, family.

• Write a short poem. Start with just three lines.

Look at the example.

The weather changes Rain, wind, sun, cloud, snow, hot, cold Here it stays the same



• Write a poem with words and pictures (an acrostic). Look at the example.









- **F** ish
- O nion
- O range
- **D** inner
- Write a poem using your own name. Use your poem to say something about you. Look at the example.
 - **M** other
 - **A** unt
 - R unner
 - talian
 - A rtist

My Poem							
<u> </u>							

• Write 5 sentences about something you like e.g. food, sport, nature, your life, your family – you choose!

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

3. Write what you see

- Write about what you see around you. Try to write one sentence a day.
- Find a picture. Write two sentences about it. Make a book of your pictures and your writing.

4. Play a game

- Make up a crossword with words you know.
- Make up a word search for somebody else to do.

Make a word search

Example – In the garden

f	a	j	u	a	n	t	C	p	h	q	е		٧	0	р
1	50	е	r	d	h	Ь	U	f	C	u	d	n	j	n	0
0	X	k	Ь	m	Ь	a	t	t	e	r	f		у	m	n
W	0	W	Ъ	50	U	a		Ь	_	b 0	d	a	a	Ь	d
e	h	Ь	Ь	j	0	a	f	S	>	i	Ь	50 0	r	h	f
r		f	p	٧	-	d		50 0	U	Ь	i	•	i	e	С
i	0	С	i	p	t	۲	Φ	Φ	j	W	r	a	0	m	j
р	С	k	p	m	d	Z		C	k	g	d	a	d	h	m
q	f	bo	e	е	S	n	a	· -	1	n	i	n	t	k	j
a	Ь	е	e	f	d			у	i	b	h	е	е	n	С
р	a	m	a	f	d	a	f	k	k	f	g	r	a	S	S





Now make your own word search

Words:

READING

Fill in your reading log each time you read.

1. Practise using a dictionary.

- Look around you. What words can you see? Find words on signs and notices. Copy them down. Look them up in the dictionary. How would you say these words in your own language?
- Learn a new word a day from the dictionary. See if you can use it when you speak or write.

Using a dictionary

Word:	
Where did you see this word?	What does it mean?
Word:	
Where did you see this word?	What does it mean?
Word:	
Where did you see this word?	What does it mean?

2. Work with texts

There are 10 texts in this booklet.

Choose one you like.

Read the text and do the tasks that go with it.

Read the text out loud and record yourself on your phone.

Fill in the reading log.

- Choose a text of your own. It could be from a book, a newspaper or a magazine. Read it and fill in the reading log.
- You can make up your own things to do.

Reading log

Date completed:		
Title of text:		
What is this text? (e.g. email, advert, letter, webpa	ge, blog, poster, leaflet)	
What is this text for? (e.g.it tells you how to do so	mething; it is a warning; it giv	ves you advice)
Key words Use a dictionary if you don't know what Write down these words and what they mean.	a word means.	
Key information What is the text telling you? Note • • •	the main points in bullets.	
How easy did you find it to read this text? (Circle of	ne)	
Easy Quite easy C	Dk Quite hard	
If you found it hard/quite hard, - what do you need to practise? - how could your tutor help? Make some notes below.		

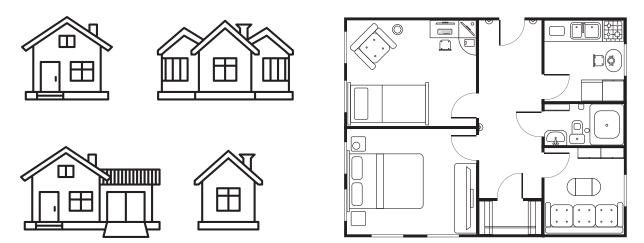
READING TEXTS

The	ere are 10 texts to read with different tasks to do:	Page
١.	Living in the UK	15
2.	Exercise	16
3.	Sharing a House with Others	17
4.	Volunteering	19
5.	ESOL Chatroom	20
6.	Grow your own Lavendar	21
7.	Fairtrade	23
8.	Sonny's Restaurant	24
9.	Work Match	25
10.	Traditional English Rhymes	26
11.	Personal goals	29
12.	Chickens (Poem)	32
13.	Buy Online	34
14.	What's on?	36
15.	Soda bread	39

LIVING IN THE UK

Types of housing

In the UK most people live in houses: detached, semi-detached, or terraced. Today there are also many flats being built in the UK.



- **Detached houses:** stand alone. They have no other houses joined to them and often have gardens at the front and back, Most have 3+ bedrooms.
- Semi-detached: have a house joined on one side. These are often smaller than detached properties, though not always.
- Terraced: a row of houses all joined together. Often used in big cities where there are a lot of people to house. They have a back yard, or small garden.
- Flat: small homes built in blocks with two or more floors. Usually no garden, or a shared garden.

Text adapted from British Council English Nexus Offender Learning

Activities

Ιa

Draw a picture of each type of housing in the text.

lb

Draw a picture of your home in the UK or in your home country. Make a list of the rooms and what is in the rooms.

EXERCISE

Going to a keep-fit class or gym session is a fun way to keep healthy. Go on! Join a class and work towards a happier, stronger you!

- Exercise can help with anxiety and depression.
- It can help you keep calm and keep positive.
- Regular exercise can help you to sleep better.
- It can make you feel more awake and more confident.
- It can help you concentrate.



Activities

Use different colours to highlight or underline the words:

- you know
- you can guess
- you need to find out.

2b

Make a list of exercises you do. Say when you do it.

Exercise	When I do it

Add 2 new bullets to the poster to say why exercise is good for you.

TEXT 3

SHARING A HOUSE WITH OTHERS

- Do things together such as games and quizzes
- ✓ Plan what you will watch on TV together
- Agree what items you will buy together like washing powder
- As a group, set down some rules for things like cleaning and smoking
- Listen to each other
- Be careful with each others' things
- Take time to understand each other
- Respect other people's religion
- If there is a problem, talk together
- ✓ Be considerate



Activities

3a

Underline all the words that tell you what to do – for example, Do, Plan.

Which rules are the most important? Write the list again in a new order. Put the most important rule first.

	Sharing a house with others Top 10 rules
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer office assistant

- Are you organised?
- Are you good at working with others?
- Can you use a computer?
- Do you want to learn new skills?
- Can you work for 15 hours a week?
- Maybe this is the volunteer job for you!

Reset: helps people to find somewhere to live when they come out of prison.

We need volunteers to help in our office in Green Lane.

If you'd like more information, please contact Khalil on 02709 321765.

Volunteers needed for homeless shelter

We need:

- kitchen staff to prepare and serve food
- cleaners to clean rooms and wash sheets and towels.

Part-time - 10 hours a week minimum

Full training given

Learn new skills and meet people

Travel expenses paid

Please contact Deb via email deb@redroofcharity.co.uk or come and see us on Park Road.

Text adapted from British Council

Activities

Underline all the skills and qualities you can find in these adverts

Write some sentences about yourself and what you can do that might be useful as a volunteer. Write a letter to show to your tutor.

ESOL

We are writing about English classes. We like our lessons. We like our classroom. It is clean and tidy. We can learn well here. The start times are very early. The lessons are long. The computers are fast, but the books are very old. We need more books!

Lina

I am writing to tell you about my English classes. I am very happy with my ESOL lessons. Before, I could not read very well. Six months ago, I came here and got help from the community centre. They were very helpful.

I am now at Entry 3 in English. I can write to my family and friends. I can read letters from home. I can also read stories.

If you want help with reading and writing, go to your community centre. You will soon get help to read better. You just need to ask for help.

Yours sincerely,

Petr

Activities

Underline all the adjectives you can find in the text e.g. clean.

5b

Write your own contribution to the chatroom about your English classes.

- Say what you: do in class
- like about the classes
- don't like about the classes.

GROW YOUR OWN LAVENDER FROM SEEDS



What you need:

- I packet of seeds
- I small pot
- some compost



Lavender is a plant people grow for its scent. It can be grown indoors or outdoors. The flowers can be dried to keep for a long time.

To grow your lavender indoors:

- Fill the pot with compost.
- Sow the seeds 0.5 cm deep.
- Water the seeds well.
- Place in warm place like a window sill.
- Keep the compost moist

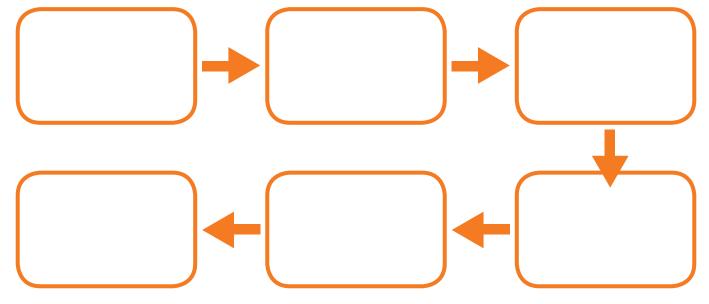
You will see the lavender starting to grow after about 10 days!

Activities

Use different colours to highlight all the numbers in this text.

Which number is about time? Which number is about depth? What are the other numbers about?

Draw a diagram to show what has to be done to grow the lavender. You could use a flowchart like this:



Write down how to make or do something, for example, how to make a paper aeroplane. You could use:

- a flowchart
- just words
- words and pictures

6d

Write out some recipes. Ask other people if they have any good recipes. Make a recipe book

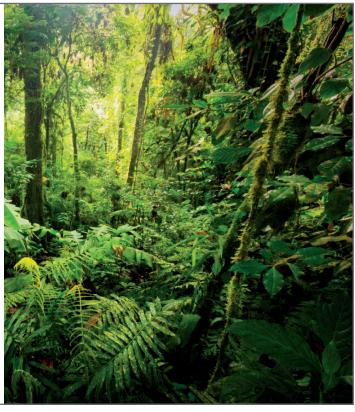
TEXT 7

Make FAIRTRADE a habit!

Fairly traded products like chocolate, coffee, tea and bananas mean people in poor countries get fair pay for their hard work.

What can you do?

- Buy FAIRTRADE products when you can
- Ask for **FAIRTRADE** products in shops and cafes
- Get businesses near you to stock **FAIRTRADE** products
- Make your workplace, place of worship or college a FAIRTRADE place.



Source: adapted from: New Consumer Magazine: Fairtrade Guide to Sheffield

Activities

7a

Make a list of all the foods in the text.

7b

Make a list of all the places in the text.

7с

Make your own poster about something to help the environment e.g.

- Save energy
- Stop pollution
- Don't waste food.



Two courses for £9.95 or three courses for £12.95 plus tea or coffee

Starters

Soup of the day* Garlic bread Grilled king prawns

Main courses

Fish and chips with peas Pizza with mushrooms and peppers Steak, chips and vegetables

Desserts

Lemon cheesecake Homemade strawberry ice-cream Chocolate fudge cake Tea or coffee



*Ask your waiter for details of today's soup of the day

Activities

Highlight or underline words for different fruit and vegetables.

8b

Write down what you would order at this restaurant.

Design your own menu with your favourite food.

WORK MATCH

Securing Jobs for Local People

We have a wide range of jobs across the borough just for our residents.

Send your CV to Work Match today!

If your CV matches one of our vacancies, we will contract you for an interview at one of our offices.

Vacancies

Construction Security Hospitality and Catering Retail Admin and Service Health and Social Care

Activities

Highlight or underline in different colours:

- words you know
- words you can guess
- words you need to find out

Write down two or more jobs for each of the job sectors listed e.g. **Construction** – builder

Write your own CV. Include the following::

- Name
- Date of birth
- Education
- Qualifications
- Experience
- Contact details

John Smith 12/04/1997

Education

Burlington Secondary School, Essex

GCSE English 5 **GCSE** Science GCSE Maths 5 5 GCSE Art GCSE Geography 3

Qualifications

Quindon College, Kent

Art Pass

Photography Distinction

Experience

Princeton Art Gallery

Saturday job at my local art gallery. Speaking to customers, handling expensive paintings, making sure the gallery is tidy.

Contact Details

Email: john.smith@email.co.uk Mobile: 0790383838

TEXT 10

TRADITIONAL E	NGLISH RHYMES
I Evening red and morning grey, Send the traveler on his way; Evening grey and morning red, Bring the rain upon his head	2 Hold up your head, Turn out your toes, Speak when you're spoken to, Mend your clothes
3 A cherry year, A merry year; A pear year, A dear year; A plum year, A dumb year.	4 Through storm and wind, Sunshine and shower, Still will you find Daisies in flower.
5 Go to bed late, Stay very small; Go to bed early, Grow very tall.	6 Swan swam over the sea, Swim, swan, swim! Swan swam back again, Well swum swan.

Text adapted from Oxford Book of Nursery Rhymes

Activities

Highlight or underline in different colours all the nouns, verbs and adjectives in these rhymes.

10b

Highlight in different colours all the different kinds of punctuation used.

I0c

Read the rhymes out loud and record them. Write the first line of each rhyme in the order you like them.

Write your own rhyme. You can change the words in one of these rhymes.

Task Sheet

10a	
Which colour?	Activity
	Nouns
	Verbs
	Adjectives
10Ь	
Punctuation	What colour did you use to highlight?
10c	
10d	



PERSONAL GOALS CHATROOM

Petra

I hope to take a college course in textiles because I want to learn how to sew. I think it is a really useful skill. I want to make my own clothes and meet new people.

Imran

I want to be more active so I'm going join a football club. I also want to make new friends.

Priti

I want to get a job in an office. I need to improve my IT skills. I am going to study for a qualification in digital skills.

Eric

I am quite a shy person. I would like to become confident when I talk to people. My first step is to say hello to people when I come to class. I also want to start a new hobby.

I am trying to get fit. I have started going to the gym. I am going to eat more healthily. I also want to give up smoking.

Daniel

I have got an NVQ in Food Preparation and Cooking. I want to find a job as a chef. I want to work in a restaurant or cafe somewhere.

Anisa

I have already passed my Entry I ESOL exam. I hope to pass my Entry 2 exam this year. I am going to learn 10 new spellings a week because this is something I find difficult. In the future, I want to get my Level 1.

Rahim

I want to practise my English so I can get a better job. I am going to start reading one book a week to improve my writing. I also want to write my CV.

> Text adapted from British council Image source: Istock

Activities

Ha

Find the words in the text. Fill in the missing letters.

pas _	wa_t	m _ ke	g_t
g_ve up	le _ rn	st _ dy	ach _ eve
n_ed	st _ rt	impr _ ve	re _ d
pr _ ctise	h_pe	bec _ me	f_nd

ПЬ

Choose some goals from the text. Decide what kind of goals they are.

Fill in the table. It has been started for you. Try and find some more

Health	
I am trying to get fit.	
Education	
I hope to pass my Entry 2 exams this year.	
Employment	
I want to work in a restaurant.	
Personal	
I want to meet new people.	

Пc

Finish these sentences to write some goals of your own.

I want to..... I hope to..... I am trying to..... I would like to I am going to

Hd

Write your own text about your personal goals for the chatroom. Try and say how you will achieve them.

Include a goal for:

- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Personal

He

Ask other people what their goals are and make a list.

TEXT 12

POEM - CHICKENS

Last night I dreamed of chickens, there were chickens everywhere, they were standing on my stomach, they were nesting in my hair, they were pecking at my pillow, they were hopping on my head, they were ruffling up their feathers as they raced about my bed.

They were on the chairs and tables, they were on the chandeliers, they were roosting in the corners, they were clucking in my ears, there were chickens, chickens, chickens for as far as I could see... when I woke today, I noticed there were eggs on top of me.



Jack Prelutsky

Source: poemhunter.com Image source: Istock

Activities

12a

Highlight or underline words for parts of the body in the poem.

12b

Highlight or underline words for things in a house in the poem.

12c

Read the poem out loud and record it.

12d

Write some lines for a poem about a different animal.

12e

Write a different kind of poem. Share what you write with other people: friends, other learners, family.

Look at the example.

The weather changes Rain, wind, sun, cloud, snow, hot, cold Here it stays the same

















- **F** ish
- O nion
- **O** range
- **D** inner

BUYING ONLINE

Websites such as eBay allow people to sell items online to the person who offers the most money.

A seller creates a **listing** which is a text that describes the thing they want to sell.

This must say if the item is **new** or has been **used** before.

If a buyer wishes to buy it, they can **bid** on it in an auction.

This means they offer the seller an amount of money for it.

The person who offers the most money can buy the item.

There is usually a **delivery** fee, though some sellers offer free delivery.

Text adapted from British Council

Here are two listings:



Clothes

Item condition: Used

Current bid: £3.50

Buy it now

Make an offer

Item description

Blue wool coat, five jumpers, two trousers. All in good condition. Only worn a few times. Delivery included.



Modern wooden table

Item condition: New

Buy it now: £60

Buy it now

Make an offer

Item description

Brand new wood coffee table. It was a present, but I didn't like it. This is a real bargain at £60. It cost £150. Buyer collects.

Image source: Istock

Activities

13a

Highlight or underline in different colours all the nouns, verbs, and adjectives in these texts.

13b

Read the text. What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

Listing	
New	
Used	
Bid	
Delivery	

13c

Make a list of any items you would like to sell.

Make a list of any items you would like to buy.

Write a listing for something you would like to sell.

Item name	
'Buy it now' price	£
Item condition	
Item description	

What's on?

SEPTEMBER

September 7th 10am - 7pm

Get Active Festival Free taster sessions of tennis, football, rugby, and yoga as well as many other activities. There will also be live music, face painting, a petting zoo and more. Free entry. The Bull Green, Roehampton.

September 7th I I am - 3pm

Free community event This event organised by Wandsworth Police includes police dogs, the fire brigade, a raffle, food, local charities, careers advice and more. Go to Battersea Park access via the South Gate.

September 7th 3pm

Annual Vegetable and Flower Show. All the fruit, vegetables and flowers are grown locally. There's a separate children's section, too. Tea and cakes will be on sale throughout the afternoon. Awards will be presented at 4.30pm and produce will be sold at 4.45pm Community Centre Magdalen Road, SW18

September 14th

Wheels and Wellies Walk Accessible family walk in the park and fun day supporting Contact, the charity that helps families with disabled children. Registration from 10.15am at Putt in the Park.

September 21st

Art class Introduction to Drawing online course from the School of Art. You can join from your own home with an expert tutor and learn from each other too. Visit the website to find out more about this.

September 25th - 29th

Bags of Taste Wandsworth cooking class These free classes help people learn how to save money on their food budgets by cooking delicious recipes that all cost less than £1 a portion. Southfields at St. Michael's Church.

Text adapted from Wandsworth Gov, September and December issue

Activities

14a

Highlight or underline in different colours:

- words you know
- words you can guess
- words you need to find out

I	4	h

Which activity? Write the activity next to what you want to do.
I want to buy flowers
I want to learn to draw
I want to save money on food
I want to play sport
I want to get careers advice

14c

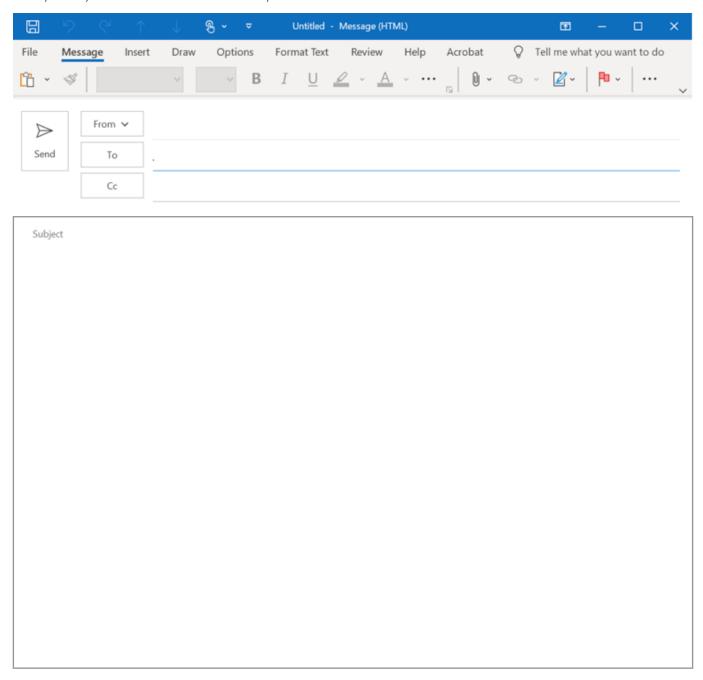
Put the activities in the order you would like to do them

ı	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

I4d

Write an email to a friend to tell them about one of the events.

- Say when it is
- Say what is happening
- Say what you like about the event and why



14e

Design a poster or leaflet for one of the events or your ideal community event.

SODA BREAD

Ingredients

- 175 grams flour
- 25 grams oats
- 1½ teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 2 table spoons sunflower seeds
- 3 tablespoons yoghurt



Preparation time less than 30 mins Cooking time 10 to 30 mins

Makes I loaf

Heat the oven to 220C/Gas 7.

Stir all the ingredients, except the yoghurt, together in a bowl.

Add the yoghurt and mix to a soft dough.

Tip the dough out onto a floured work surface and knead for a few minutes.

Shape into a round loaf and put on a baking tray.

Mark a deep X on the top using a knife.

Bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes.

Source: bbc.co.uk Image source: istock

Activities

15a

Underline all the verbs you can find in the text e.g., stir.

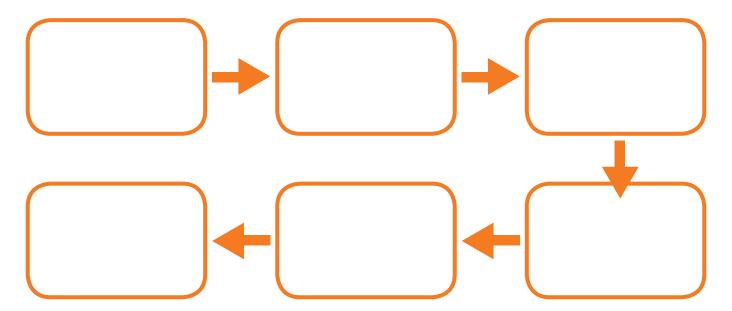
15b

Use different colours to highlight all the numbers in this text.

Which numbers are about time? Which numbers are about quantity? What are the other numbers about?

15c

Draw a diagram to show how to make the bread. You could use a flowchart like this:



15d

Write down a recipe of your own. You could use:

- a flowchart
- just words
- words and pictures

15e

Ask other people if they have any good recipes. Make a recipe book

NOTES

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gateway

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