

Sketchbooks! Collage Exercise

Part 3: Collage Exercise

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This exercise is to help you develop sketchbook skills. It gives you the opportunity to see how working in sketchbooks can involve lots of different activities: seeing, collecting, sticking, drawing, note-taking, making connections, thinking, doodling, discovering...

**The exercise is in
three parts:**

**Collecting Images –
You'll choose a
selection of images
from magazines, photos,
memorabilia, postcards
etc**

**Selecting a word –
You'll choose a word
(from the list below)**

Connecting – You'll

**connect your selected
images and the word,
and use your
imagination and memory
to create visual
stories.**

Step 1. Collecting Images

**This is an ice breaker
exercise to help you
explore some of the
activities that can
take place in your**

sketchbook.

You'll use found pictures and words to create new images which are personal to you. Try not to overthink what you draw or write, just let your ideas flow and don't talk yourself out of it!

It may be useful to find some place in your sketchbook, maybe the

back, where you can make tiny notes, during this exercise, to jog your memory of the process later. These might just be single words, or short sentences. Don't worry about joining them up or connecting them.





The first part of the exercise is easy and should be fun too! Just very quickly and simply, without getting too bogged down into thinking, collect and

**cut out a group of
images that you like.**

**Cut images out of
magazines, maps,
photographs,
memorabilia,
newspapers, post cards,
wrapping paper, comics
etc. Images can be
completely random and
totally eclectic. What
connects them is your
liking them and that's**

all!

We suggest you allow about 20 minutes to half an hour on this part of the task.

The trick with this stage is not to get blocked or worried about what you're going to do with the images.

Step 2. Select a Word

**Have a quick read
through all the words
below. Without thinking
too much, choose a word
that you like the sound
of. Just one word.**

***Fog, Scrape, Christmas
decoration, Maraca,
Ice-cream, Leaf, Yellow
submarine, Ruler,
Lightning rod,
Internet, Headache,
Brick wall, Picture***

***frame, Nail polish,
Raisins, Fire
extinguisher, Home,
Basket ball, Airport,
Mirror, Together, Coat
hanger, Ball room
dance, Shooting star,
Upside down, Sideways,
Animal parade, Fishing
net, South Pole, Doll's
house, Sore throat,
Gingerbread man, Tooth
brush, Handkerchief,
Ankle, Bull's-eye,***

***Stick Figure, Shoulder
pad, New shoes,
Newspaper, Superhero,
Helium balloon, Belly
button, Circus,
Seashell, Wine glass,
For sale, Goggles, Hula
hoop, Sandwich, Fly
swatter, Alone, Code,
Beach, Slot machine,
Lawn, Toilet paper,
Coat hanger, ATM
machine, Top hat, Light
at the end of the***

*tunnel, Type writer,
Cork, Crowd, Tennis
elbow, Diamond ring,
Ice skate, Holiday
Cellphone, Broken,
Tomato Ketchup, Self-
service, Credit card,
Peanut, T-shirt,
Rosemary*

Write the word in your
book. You can write it
in normal writing, or
you can write it in a

very visual font (if that appeals).

That's it! Now you are ready for Step 3!



Step 3. Working with Images & Words

Go back to your pile of selected images and start to randomly stick them in your book – you don't have to work on one page only, but can work on as many pages as you like. If you created “spaces & places” in your sketchbook you can

**choose which of these
you want to work with.
You don't have to work
in chronological page
order. If you are stuck
for ideas, just start
sticking — but have
your word in the back
of your mind all the
time.**

**The process may seem
very random to start
with but the**

combination of the word and images will start to trigger your imagination and evoke memories, ideas or a visual stories. Without realizing it you will start to connect images together.

As you start to stick the images in your book, you may decide to cut your images up

further, changing their meaning and using different elements from images. Don't be afraid to cut into and jumble up images.





Use as many pages of your sketchbook as you like. Follow your instinct. When you hear that voice inside your head saying “I don’t know what I’m doing” or “This isn’t working” just ignore it!!

If a thought or idea pops into your head as you are cutting and sticking, write it down on the page.



The point of this exercise is to get ideas flowing and enjoy the process of working in a sketchbook. There is not a right or wrong way of joining up images and unexpected combinations and connections are likely to be made.

Have fun!

**Remember you
can post
images of
your
sketchbook
work on
Instagram**

Tag

**@accessartorg
uk**

**#accessartske
tchbook**

Next...

4. Drawing the

Drawing Materials



Exploring drawing
materials and
thinking creatively

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