EAP for the 21st century learner

LESSON 7: INITIATIVE AS A 21ST CENTURY SKILL

TEACHER NOTES

> **Age:** Young adults
> **Level:** Intermediate (B1)
> **Time:** 60 minutes
> **Focus:** speaking, teamwork
> **Materials:** One copy of the worksheet per student, Internet connection, PC and projector in the classroom
> **Overall Aims:** In this lesson, students will:
> 1. develop an awareness of initiative and its importance;
> 2. engage in a hands-on initiative activity and reflect on their own performance in it.

LEAD-IN

Aim: to provide a definition of initiative

Approximate time: 10 mins

PROCEDURE:

Distribute the worksheet and ask the students if they know the meaning of the word *initiative*. In certain languages, a similar word may exist (albeit with a different pronunciation). Elicit their responses.

Then ask the students to go online to the Macmillan Dictionary (www.macmillandictionary.com) and find the relevant definitions. You may ask them to also listen to the right pronunciation. When they have finished discussing their answers, let two students read one definition each.

Reminder: The next lesson will focus on writing definition paragraphs. The lead-in activity here may be considered a lead-in to formal definition writing as well. You may want to point this out.

Answers:
initiative (n):
1. the ability to decide in an independent way what to do and when to do it;
2. an important action that is intended to solve a problem.

INITIATIVE

Aims: to provide students with more details about initiative, to interact with a short informative text

Approximate time: 20 mins

PROCEDURE:

1. Check that the students know what a mind map is. If not, quickly explain what they are expected to do in part A. Let them work on their mind maps and share with another student before sharing with the whole class. Check that the students know/can guess all the words in their mind maps.
2. If there is need, pre-teach the words *passionate* and *outgoing*. Then, have your students read the second part of the text and answer the questions on the right. Give them a chance to share and discuss their responses with another student before you elicit them.

Answers:
A. The mindmap should include the words *initiate, start, self-motivated, proactive, self-starter.*
B. outgoing; independent; young; passionate

INITIATIVE CHALLENGE: YOUR OWN CROWDFUNDING PROJECT

Aims: to provide hands-on practice in initiative building; to offer an opportunity for self-reflection

Approximate time: 30 mins

PROCEDURE:

1. Start by reminding the students of the crowdfunding projects they read about in Lessons 5 and 6.
2. Put students in groups of 3 or 4. Get them to read the instructions. Emphasize that they have 15 minutes to develop a project, after which groups will present their projects to others. Each student should decide on their role for the presentation.
3. When the time is up, let each group present their idea, and remember to applaud each group!

> 💡 **TEACHING TIP:** Decide on a time limit for the presentations based on your class size. If you have more than 15–16 students in your class, you will probably need to either listen to the presentations in a different session or pair up the groups and get each group to present to the other one.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY EXERCISES

Answers:

1. pursue
2. define
3. initiate
4. issue
5. website

HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING:

You may ask the students to complete the following online quiz to find out whether they would make good entrepreneurs:

www.bbc.com/news/business-33851439

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one stop english

LESSON 7: INITIATIVE AS A 21ST CENTURY SKILL

WORKSHEET

LEAD-IN

What is initiative? Visit www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/initiative and discuss the two definitions with your partner.
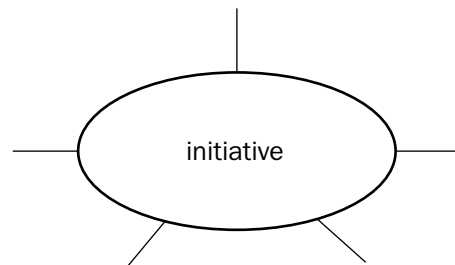
INITIATIVE

Initiative is related to the word *initiate* or *start*. Many job adverts these days look for self-motivated or proactive employees. These qualities are related to initiative. However, initiative is not just a work skill but also academic skill.

But why have initiative as a student? Because now is the best time to learn how to become a self-starter! Making new contacts and trying out new ideas while you are still a student is the best way to develop skills that could lead to success in later life.

Here are a few ways to develop initiative at school or university:

- Interact with other students. Don't wait for them to come and make friends with you. Be _____. Every student you meet will enrich you in some way and could become your first contacts for business later in life!

- Join student clubs. Play a sport or take up a musical instrument. These experiences will teach you _____, creative thinking.

- You're never too _____ to have an idea! Develop new ideas, then check out competitions in your area for ideas. Send a proposal in!

- Start projects. Find something that you are _____ about and pour your time and energy into it. Start small but start today!

A. Read the two paragraphs on the left and make a mind map of words that are related to *initiative*:

initiative

B. Read the ways of developing initiative at school or university. Fill in the blanks in the text with the adjectives below:

young

passionate

outgoing

independent

INITIATIVE CHALLENGE: YOUR OWN CROWDFUNDING PROJECT

Work in teams of three or four.

You have 15 minutes to develop a unique idea for a crowdfunding project to go on a website such as indiegogo.com.

Brainstorm with your team members. What social issues or technological innovations interest you? If you had a lot of money, what project would you pursue? What kind of a project would attract other people's attention and make them want to support it?

Title of your project: _____

Explanation:

Time frame:

Budget:

Respect all ideas, but choose one to work on. Discuss the details of your project.

When you are ready, you will introduce your project to your classmates. Each team member should introduce a different aspect of the project, such as:

- What is your project about?
- Why did you decide on this project?
- What resources are needed?
- How long will it take you to complete the project?

Remember, creativity and collaboration among team members are essential for this challenge!

LESSON 7 WORD LIST

Key Words	Academic Words
outgoing	define
passionate	initiate
proactive	issue
self-motivated	project
self-starter	pursue
	website

Academic Vocabulary Exercises

Use the words below to complete the paragraph:

define	initiate	issue	pursue	website

Have you ever had a really good idea but no money to (1) _____ it? Perhaps all you needed to do was to turn to 'crowdfunding'. First, let me (2) _____ the term for you. Crowdfunding is using small monetary contributions from a lot of people to be able to fund a project. In order to (3) _____ a crowdfunding project, you should first decide on a problematic (4) _____ that you would like to improve and then design your project. When the design stage is over, it is time to get your idea out to the world. Choose a good (5) _____ to post your project and ask for contributions. Hopefully, you will reach the right people who will support your project. Good luck!