

## Digital Mind Maps and Word Clouds—Upper-Intermediate

### Let's discuss

#### A Read the text and answer the questions.

#### What are mind maps and word clouds?

##### Extra information

There are many tools that can help you study and remember what you have learnt. A **mind map** is a visual way to represent ideas and concepts. Instead of traditional note-taking, information is written down around key words, images or concepts. A clear mind map can help students study and remember what they have learnt.

**Word clouds** are also very useful to work with vocabulary and to brainstorm ideas. They are fun to make and can be used as an effective studying tool for remembering ideas, concepts and vocabulary.

Many tasks can be easier if we use mind maps and word clouds, e.g. note-taking, brainstorming, presenting information, planning, studying and memorizing.

### Key

- 1 *Students' own answers.*
- 2 *In a mind map we use branches and themes going out from a central theme; in a word cloud, all the words and phrases are interconnected.*

### Let's analyse

#### B Look at the example of a mind map and a word cloud. Answer the questions in groups.

- Students look at the mind map and word cloud and discuss the questions in groups of three or four. Elicit answers and discuss as a class.

### Key

- 1 *It is about exam technique.*
- 2 *The phrase 'exam technique' is placed in the centre. The other phrases represent concepts related to exam techniques.*

- 3 *Students' own answers.*
- 4 *Adjectives and adverbs.*
- 5 *They are all examples of adjectives and adverbs.*
- 6 *Accept all answers, but point out that word clouds help to visualize words and concepts. Making them also helps you to remember the vocabulary or topics you have learnt.*
- 7 *Mind maps allow you to structure the concept in a more logical pattern and to enter into more detail. Word clouds place the words in any order which makes it more difficult to categorize the vocabulary.*

- Go online and show students recommended mind map and word cloud digital creators.
- Try making both tools using suggestions from the class. Ask students which subjects or areas they would like to revise. Make the changes on screen.

### Let's do it!

- This can be completed in class or as homework.
- Ask students to choose an area of study to use to create a digital mind map or word cloud.
- Once you have all the links to the digital mind maps or word clouds, use one lesson to allow students to show their work to the class.
- Students can vote on their favourites and choose the best three.

#### TIPS!

##### Digital mind maps and word clouds

Before class, look for websites that allow you to create digital graphic organizers for free, using different media types by typing "online mind map" or "online word cloud" into the search bar.

It is best if you practise on your chosen website in advance of the lesson, to make sure you understand its features and also to create a sample to demonstrate to your students.