## Activity 3: Problem Solving

## Part A: Group Discussion

Work in groups and discuss your answers to the following questions.

1. What are the traits of a good problem-solver in your opinion?

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| Answer |
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2. What steps could go into finding a solution to a problem?

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| Answer |
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3. Can creativity be applied to problem-solving? How?

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| --- |
| Answer |
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## Part B: Read the Article

Skim the article *How to become a creative problem solver* by Louise Cunnah and find the benefits of using creativity in problem solving.

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| Answer |
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## Part C: Definitions

Fill in the terms into the correct cells to match them to the definitions below:

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| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition |
|  | following the usual practices of the past |
|  | to indicate |
|  | fully developed in all aspects |
|  | to start thinking about other matters |
|  | a puzzling or mysterious question |
|  | to hit |
|  | remember |
|  | invent a word or expression |
|  | to feel a strong emotion |
| Options | |
| recall, conventional, burst, wander, signify, strike, riddle, rounded, coin | |

## Part D: Read for Details

Read the article from Part B again and answer the following questions in your group.

Each question has a sample answer that will be revealed when you click/tap on the *Check* button and then *Show Solution*.

1. What assumption underlies the CPS model?

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| --- |
| Answer |
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2. According to the CPS model, what are the differences between the *clarifying* and *ideating* steps?

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| --- |
| Answer |
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3. At which step in the CPS model are ideas put into action? What do you know about this step?

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| --- |
| Answer |
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4. What are the benefits of using the mind mapping technique?

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| Answer |
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5. What do the different colors in the Six Different Hats technique imply?

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| --- |
| Answer |
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6. Is there anything that needs to be done before one starts mind wandering?

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| Answer |
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7. According to the text, what technique can help an individual go beyond the typical brainstorming methods?

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| Answer |
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8. How does one ensure that they continue to generate creative ideas without burning out?

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| Answer |
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## Part E: Critical Thinking

Think about a challenge you have faced in your language learning courses (e.g., a challenging test, paper, essay, or presentation).

To brainstorm solutions, use the following techniques:

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| --- | --- |
| Step 1- **Divergent Thinking** | Step 2- **Convergent Thinking** |
| Title: Divergent thinking. 1- Image of one yellow square (Text: start with a prompt) 2- Image yellow square with arrows pointing out to 5 green pentagons arranged in a semi circle around the shape.  When producing ideas:   * Strive for quantity (i.e., generate as many ideas as possible) * Defer judgement (do not evaluate their effectiveness at this point) * Build off others’ ideas * Freewheel (at this stage, it is okay to produce wild ideas!) | Title: Convergent thinking. 1- Image of 5 blue circle forming a semi circle (text: start with information). 2- Image of 5 blue circles with arrows from each pointing to a green pentagon in the centre. (text: converge on a solution)  Evaluating the effectiveness of your ideas:   * Rate your ideas * Cluster your ideas (i.e., put them into different categories) * Tag your favourites |

In your groups, discuss the following questions using the Divergent and Convergent Thinking methods.

1. What problem-solving strategies did you use to achieve the best outcomes?

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| --- |
| Answer |
|  |

2. If you were to face the challenge again, what would you do differently? What creative problem-solving strategies would you use?

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| --- |
| Answer |
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