

Matching Activities

Matching activities are usually done in small groups or pairs. Each group is given two sets of cards which they match together cooperatively, pooling their knowledge and understanding as they do so.

Uses of matching activities

Matching activities can consist of:

- specialised terminology matched with definitions or meanings
- components of diagrams or graphics matched with their technical names
- conceptual terms matched with meanings
- objects matched with estimated measurements (numeracy)
- pictures of tools or equipment with their names or uses.

They can also be extended to **three sets of cards**, for instance pictures of tools, names of the tools, matched with what they would be used for.

These activities can be used:

- As short activities to begin or end a session
- To introduce new language or terminology
- To clarify concepts and their meanings
- As a brief re-visit of concepts or language previously covered in the course
- As an opportunity to find out what learners already know (their existing knowledge) before commencing a new topic

Note: When using matching activities to focus on language and terminology it is a good idea to encourage students to use the language themselves by talking in their small groups about what they are choosing and why, and by asking some of them to read out their responses to ensure pronunciation is correct.

Benefits of matching activities

Matching activities are non-threatening because all of the ‘answers’ are there and difficult items can be worked out by a process of elimination.

They boost student confidence because they acknowledge their existing knowledge rather than having the teacher as the only expert.

Matching activities encourage students to share their different areas of expertise. Establishing a cooperative approach through structured activities like this tends to have flow on benefits as students will then help each other in other aspects of their theory and practical work.

They allow the teacher to observe student learning/understanding. By listening to a group discussion they can pick up on students’ areas of strength and weakness.

They provide opportunities for students to give feedback about their thinking to the teacher as they discuss the reasons for their choices. This empowers learners and provides insight on their level of confidence for the teacher.

Matching Activities

Some ideas from prior participants

Electrical trades

Current	a flow of electrons
Watt	a unit of electrical consumption
Battery	group of cells to produce electricity
Power	the rate at which energy is used
Live	active electricity

These could be supplemented with other examples and a third set containing the units used to measure the quantities of each.

Health - Enteric pathogens

Shigella species	Food poisoning from undercooked chicken which may last for 10 days
Salmonella species	An NLF – diarrhoea with blood and pus
Campylobacter jejuni	Causes illness due to pre-formed toxin, usually fatty foods
Vibrio parahaemolyticus	Important for pregnant women and immunosuppressed
Staph aureus	May be fatal due to haemolytic uraemic syndrome
Listeria monocytogenes	Usually associated with large quantities of food, eg institutions
E. Coli	Typical infection from poorly handled rice
Clostridium perfringens	Always associated with fish and shellfish
Bacillus cereus	An NLF – may cause large outbreaks, eg pork rolls

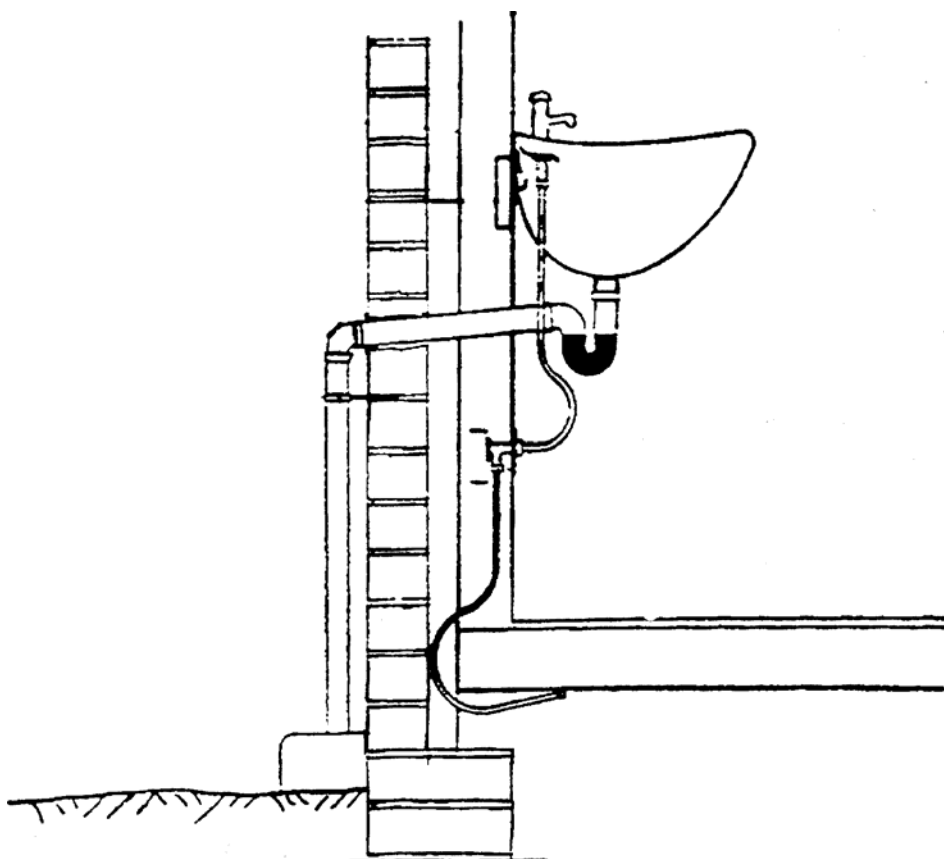
Matching Activities

Examples of matching terms to visuals

Plumbing—Matching activity

A Wall Mounted Basin

Match the words in the box below to the correct parts of the diagram



I.O Bend

Wall sleeve

Lugged elbow

Nogging

Clip

Copper connection

Trap

Pillar tap

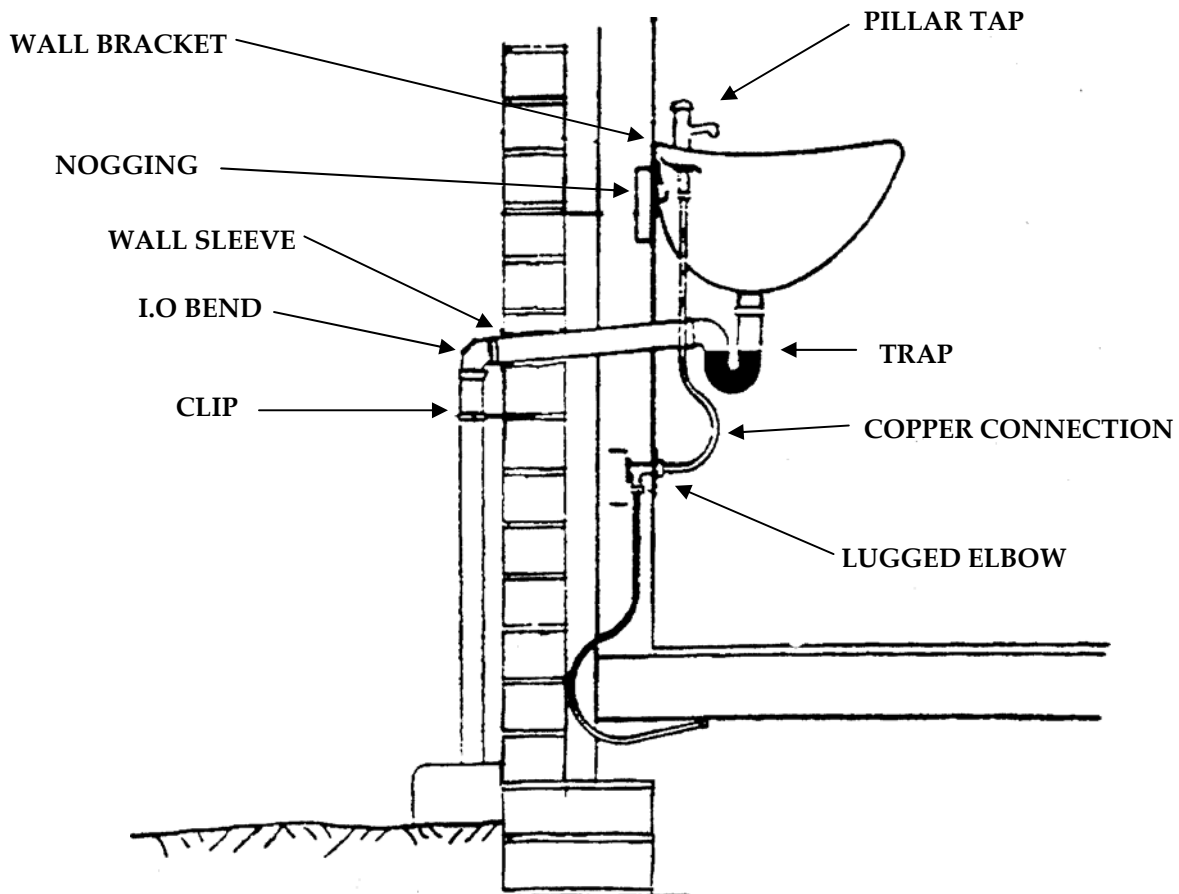
Wall bracket

Matching Activities

Answer

Plumbing—Matching activity

A Wall Mounted Basin



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Examples of matching terms to visuals

Numeracy example that matches – real world situations, approximate amounts and mathematical meanings

A possible wage rise	4%	For every \$100 you earn now you will get an extra 4 dollars
Goods and Services Tax	10%	You will pay an extra 1/10 of the cost
Time and a half overtime rate	150%	A pay rate of \$16 per hour becomes \$22 per hour
A home interest rate	7%	Every year you have to pay \$7 interest for each \$100 borrowed
Pure cotton	100%	Completely one thing
Holiday loading	17.5%	An extra \$17.50 for each \$100 of your wage to make up for loss of overtime
Blood alcohol content	.05%	A percentage much lower than 1%
A typical credit card interest rate	16%	blank