



## Thinking creatively: how to create... a holiday scrapbook

**Overview:** In addition to practising your creative writing skills, these exercises on how to create a holiday scrapbook help you to build on a variety of life skills, like organisation, self awareness and making connections. We will look at what a scrapbook is, what goes into a scrapbook, and how you can organise your scrapbook.

**Time:** Various

**Teachers:** These activities and exercises can be done in class throughout the year or before a holiday. You could ask your students to go away on their break and carry out the ideas looked at or suggested in the activities, and then compare each other's scrapbooks when they return to school. They are also a great way for a new teacher to see the English abilities of their new class. You could also make a scrapbook on a school trip, or even over a weekend.

**Students:** These activities will help you to be more organised. They build on the creative writing skills you've learnt using the other worksheets by organising all your creative ideas. They also offer a way for you to communicate things about yourself.

**Level:** Intermediate

### Introduction: What is a scrapbook?

A scrapbook starts off as a book with empty pages, a notebook or exercise book that you then fill up with anything that interests you, or that you want to remember, or you think is funny or beautiful.

If you have followed the other activities in this series, you will have a notebook filled with thoughts, feelings, overheard conversations and ideas for stories or poems. A scrapbook is similar to this, but the notebook is only for you personally, while the scrapbook is also for other people to look at. For this reason, presentation and organisation are important.

*Collecting* is at the heart of scrapbooking: when you start you should collect all kinds of things, even things you don't think are important at the time - bus tickets, shop receipts, restaurant bills, visiting cards. Organising the way you're collecting stuff and then organising your collection is a good way start to a successful scrapbook.

#### 1. Activity: What do I put in my scrapbook?

There are lots of things that you can put in your scrapbook. In this first activity, read what type of content you find in a scrapbook and choose four items from the list below that you would like to collect.

##### List of items found in a scrapbook:

##### A - Pictures

A scrapbook should be visually attractive. One of the best ways to make your scrapbook look good is to include pictures. You can use any kinds of pictures: cut out pictures from a magazine or newspaper, buy postcards from a shop or museum – or take your own.

Most people now take photos on their phones or digital cameras, so to put these in a scrapbook, you will need to print them out. Try using filters or cropping your pictures (cutting them so they only show certain details) to make them look more interesting.

##### B - Drawings or paintings

If you are good at drawing or painting, then put some of your artwork in your scrapbook. If you don't think drawing or painting are your strengths, try anyway! Even very simple drawings can give a great look to a scrapbook.

##### C - Ephemera

'Ephemera' is the name for all those little bits of paper that we all get every day: receipts from shops, bills from cafes or restaurants, bus or train tickets, sweet wrappers, price tags, advertising flyers or leaflets...all sorts of things. Keep a space in your bag to collect these items and keep them in one place.

##### D - Realia

'Realia' are simply 'real' things: pressed flowers, dried leaves, menus or visiting cards – anything you can make flat and stick in a scrapbook. You might find something interesting – a seashell or a street sign – which you cannot take with you, or make flat. For this, why not try the technique of 'rubbing.' Place a piece of paper over the object and rub a crayon or piece of coloured chalk over the paper. An image of the object will appear which you can add to your scrapbook.



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### E - Maps

A scrapbook, and especially a holiday scrapbook, is often about places you have visited or travelled to. A map is a great visual representation of this. You can use simple maps given out in tourist offices, or a proper map, or print out a map from the internet. If you can't find a map, you can also draw one yourself.

### F - Diary or 'journaling'

A scrapbook is not only about visuals. A scrapbook can also contain a diary. In American English, this is called 'journaling'. One way to start is to simply write down when and where you took a photograph, and say what the picture is of, who the people in the picture are, etc. You can also make a list of the places you went to and the things you did, what food you ate, etc. Or, you can also write down how you were feeling when you did these things. This can make the diary – and therefore the scrapbook – much more interesting.

Talk to a friend or fellow students why you think these items are important.

- ▶ Why have you chosen these items?
- ▶ Why do you think it is important to label what you've collected straight away?

If you've chosen to include diary entries, ask yourself:

- ▶ About what topics will you write in your scrapbook?
- ▶ Will it include your stories, or stories from other people, too?
- ▶ How much text should appear on each page? Make sure that you keep enough space on each page for this feature.

## 2. Collecting and organising

To make a good scrapbook there's one rule: collect everything, even if it doesn't seem that interesting or useful at first!

Make sure you have a folder, a small bag, or at least a big pocket and put everything you collect into this folder or bag.

Then, once a day, at the same time each day, go through everything you have collected, and decide what is useful or interesting, and what isn't.

Then try putting it into your scrapbook. Don't glue things in immediately – place them on the page and move them around until you have something which you think looks good. Try changing the layout on each page for each day and make sure you have a variety of things (one day a photo, the next day a drawing, etc.).

## 3. Activity: The One-day Scrapbook

This is a practise activity: you will make a scrapbook for 24 hours of your life.

For this activity you will need only a small book, or perhaps a few sheets of paper bound together (if you can use coloured paper, even better).

From when you wake up in the morning to when you wake up the next morning, make sure you:

- ▶ collect each piece of ephemera you come across
- ▶ pick up, photograph or copy some realia
- ▶ keep a simple diary (in your notebook, perhaps), detailing exactly what you do and when you do it
- ▶ take photographs of the people you meet, and all the meals you eat

The next day, put everything you have collected and written on a table. Then decide how you are going to organise it: try different combinations before you glue or stick your selections to the pages of the scrapbook.

Compare what you have done with your friends or classmates: what do you like that they have done? Can you use any of their ideas?

You are now ready to make a scrapbook for a longer time: a holiday!





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### Remember

Include all the other work you've done so far – a calligram poem, for example, or a short story about something which happened on your holiday.

Get other people (friends or family) to write pieces too – on different paper and stick them in your scrapbook. Different voices, styles and textures are good.

Scrapbooks are not only for holidays. You can have an ongoing scrapbook where you can keep anything interesting or unusual that you come across. See how long you can keep a scrapbook going for!

### Follow up

- ▶ If you are part of a class group, do a 'show and tell' with your scrapbooks. Organise an exhibition in which everyone shows their scrapbooks to each other. Vote for the best one.
- ▶ '[Digital scrapbooking](#)' is now becoming popular. There are some programmes available which can help you do this, and store your scrapbook on disc or as a website.