THE CREATIVE THINKING TOOLKIT

Need an idea? Make a spark.

Eight skills for coming up with new and useful ideas.

1 Wonder and notice
CURIOSITY

What do I notice? What if...?

2 Lots of ideas
BRAINSTORM

Have I gone past my first ideas?

3 Look another way
FLEXIBLE

What else could this be?

4 Mix and match
COMBINE

What could I join together?

5 Use the limits
CONSTRAINT

How can a limit help me?

6 Flip it
REVERSE

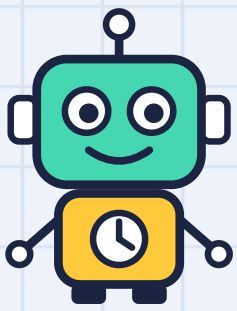
What is the worst idea, flipped?

7 Make it better
ELABORATE

What could I add, take away or change?

8 Share it bravely
ORIGINAL

Who could I show this to?



Wonder. Imagine. Make it. Then make it better.

1 CREATIVE SKILL ONE

Wonder and notice

Curiosity say: kyoor-ee-OSS-ih-tee
Wanting to find out more.

THREE WAYS TO NOTICE MORE

Slow down
Look at one small thing for a whole minute.

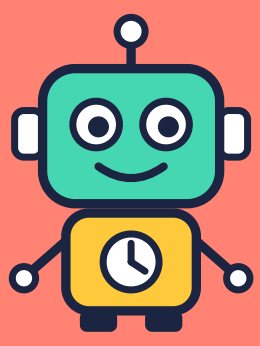
Use every sense
What can you hear, smell and feel?

Ask what if
Bigger? Softer? Upside down?

IDEA-STARTER
"I wonder why..."

IDEA-STARTER
"What if...?"

TRUE STORY
The fastener on your shoes was invented after a man noticed burrs stuck to his dog.



ASK YOURSELF
What do I notice? What if...?

2 CREATIVE SKILL TWO

Lots of ideas

Brainstorm say: BRAYN-storm
To think of many ideas quickly, without judging them.

BRAINSTORM RULES

Go for lots
Set a target, such as 20 ideas.

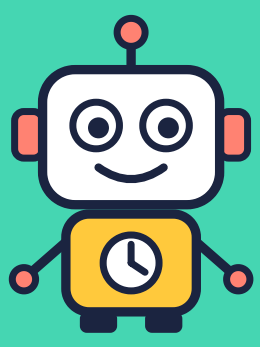
Judge later
No "that won't work" until the end.

Say "yes, and…"
Add to an idea. Don't knock it down.

IN MATHS

Think of 4 ideas a minute for 5 minutes and you have 20 ideas.

$4 \times 5 = 20$



ASK YOURSELF

Have I gone past my first ideas?

3 CREATIVE SKILL THREE

Look another way

Flexible say: FLEK-sih-bul

Able to change the way you think about something.

ONE CUP, MANY KINDS OF IDEA

A drum

A sandcastle mould

A home for a snail

A hat for a doll

WAYS TO SWITCH YOUR THINKING

Change who

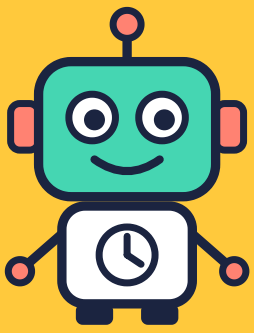
A baby? A chef? An astronaut?

Change where

At the beach? In space?

Change what

A tool, a toy, a home, a hat?



ASK YOURSELF

What else could this be?

4 CREATIVE SKILL FOUR

Mix and match

Combine say: kum-BYN

To join two or more things to make something new.

FAMOUS MASH-UPS

Shoes + wheels
Roller skates

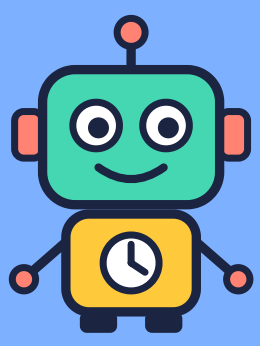
Spoon + fork
A spork

Suitcase + wheels
A rolling bag

IN MATHS

With 3 animals and 4 vehicles you can make 12 different mash-ups.

$3 \times 4 = 12$



ASK YOURSELF

What could I join together?

CREATIVE SKILL FIVE

Use the limits

Constraint say: kun-STRAYNT

A limit or rule you have to work within.

LIMITS YOU CAN CHOOSE

Limit the number
Only 6 words. Only 10 bricks.

Limit the time
Sixty seconds. Go!

Limit the tools
One sheet of paper. No scissors.

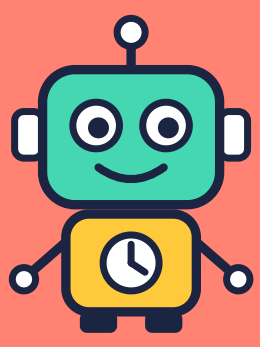
A SIX-WORD STORY

"Lost my tooth. Found a coin."

IN MATHS

A haiku poem has just 17 syllables. Count them: 5, then 7, then 5.

5 + 7 + 5 = 17



ASK YOURSELF

How can a limit help me?

6 CREATIVE SKILL SIX

Flip it

Reverse say: ruh-VERSS
To turn something the other way around.

Name the goal > List the worst ideas > Flip each one > Pick the best

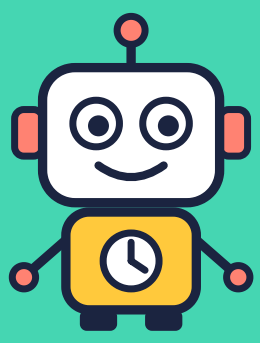
FLIPPING THE WORST PLAYGROUND

WORST IDEA
No shade anywhere

FLIPPED
Shady trees and a sun sail

WORST IDEA
One swing for 200 kids

FLIPPED
Plenty of swings



ASK YOURSELF
What is the worst idea, flipped?

7 CREATIVE SKILL SEVEN

Make it better

Elaborate say: ee-LAB-uh-rayt

To add details that make an idea clearer or better.

THREE MOVES THAT IMPROVE ALMOST ANYTHING

Add

What is missing? A handle, a label, an ending?

Take away

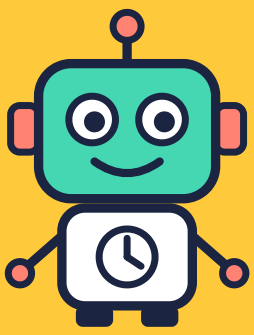
What gets in the way? Simpler is often better.

Change

Bigger, smaller, softer, faster, the other way up?

Draft 1 > Draft 2 > Draft 3 > Even better

REMEMBER Never stop at version one.



ASK YOURSELF

What could I add, take away or change?

8 CREATIVE SKILL EIGHT

Share it bravely

Original say: uh-RIJ-ih-nul

New and your own, not copied.

THREE BRAVE HABITS

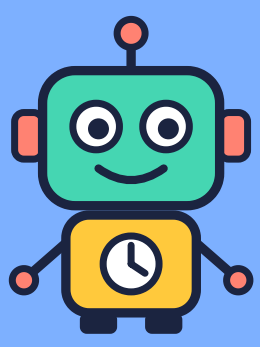
Show it early
Share a rough draft and ask for one idea.

Say "yet"
"I can't draw hands yet."

Give credit
"I got this idea from Mia's kite."

REMEMBER

Mistakes are a normal part of making things. Every maker has drafts that don't work yet.



ASK YOURSELF

Who could I show this to?