

# CREATIVE THINKER Learning Mat

## Reflecting on my *creative thinker* skills

Below are some of the skills you need to be a creative thinker. Traffic light each of the skills in turn so you are aware of which you need to develop further. You can do this at any point during your focus on this important skill to see how you are progressing...

- I'm setting off
- I'm on my way
- I'm getting nearer
- I've arrived!

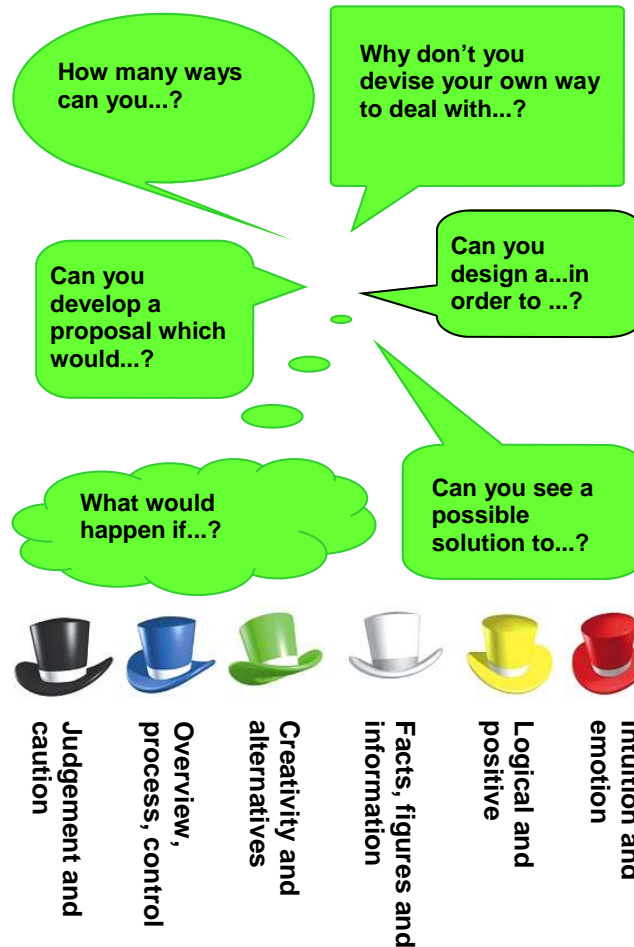
Generate ideas and explore possibilities (CT1)	<input type="radio"/>
Ask questions to extend my thinking (CT2)	<input type="radio"/>
Connect my own and others' ideas and experiences in inventive ways (CT3)	<input type="radio"/>
Question my own and others' assumptions (CT4)	<input type="radio"/>
Try out alternatives or new solutions and follow ideas through (CT5)	<input type="radio"/>
Adapt ideas as circumstances change (CT6)	<input type="radio"/>

**Uses for...** Think of an item or object, usually a common one like a brick, toothbrush, pencil, or bucket, and come up with all the possible uses for that object, without regard to what the object is normally used for, what it is named, or how it is usually thought of.

**Improvements to...** Decide on an item and think about how it might be altered to enhance its original, given purpose. The item in question need not be limited to objects, e.g. places, ideas.

**What-Ifing...** This involves describing an imagined action or solution and then examining the probable associated facts, consequences, or events. Instead of quickly saying, "That sounds stupid," or "That would never work," try to generate the specific implications or consequences of the newly imagined fact. For example, what if a new law was introduced that said all new cars have to be the colour red?

**Shoe on the other foot!** See a topic/issue from another perspective. Imagine you hold that point of view when discussing it and flex your *creative* muscles...



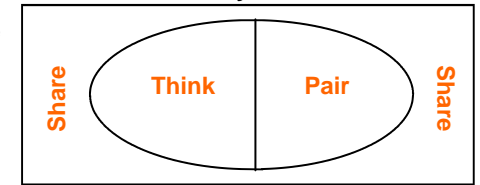
Creative verbs		
invent	create	propose
predict	compose	combine
design	anticipate	substitute
imagine	adapt	rewrite
formulate	speculate	modify
devise	plan	reorganise

**Step 1:** think about your own response to a question

**Step 2:** pair up and talk through your ideas

**Step 3:** share your ideas with the group

### Marinate your ideas!

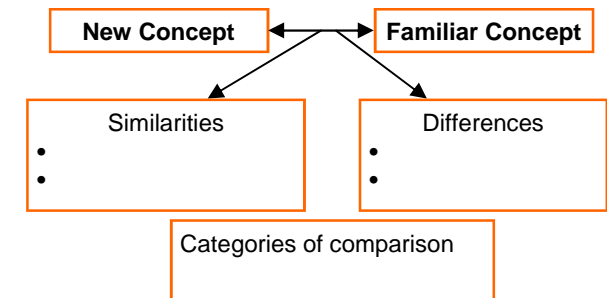


### Filter your ideas!

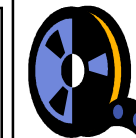
- Brain storm ideas for a topic
- Focus on a key question and filter out the main points



**Analogy:** Whether you are explaining a new idea to someone else, trying to learn something yourself or trying to solve a problem, one of the most *creative* ways of doing it is to compare the unfamiliar, unknown, or problematic with something familiar and understandable.



Overall, does this comparison work?



**Movie maker :** play a short video clip with the sound turned down. In pairs or as part of a group, work out the dialogue. You could write the dialogue down and read it back with the clip playing.

Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might yet discover and create.

