



Project

What is a project?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines “project” as “An individual or collaborative enterprise that is carefully planned and designed to achieve a particular aim”.

Let us discuss the idea through an example. Imagine that your villagers decide they need planting of trees for improving their environment. Therefore, they want to take up a project of planting 2000 trees in and around the village in two years (*What?*) The villagers decide to plant trees because the trees will bring a number of benefits for all (*Why?*). Then the villagers decide how this project of planting trees will be conducted (*How?*).

The first thing to start a project is to ask three questions: *what, why, how*. What does your village need the most? Why? How are the villagers going to do this?

This project involves teamwork in which all the villagers will participate. A plan will be prepared to help in conducting the project:

- where to plant the trees
- where to get the saplings from
- the time when the plantation will be done
- number of saplings to be planted each day
- how the saplings will be looked after

If any funding is required, its sources for it will be planned.

The last stage of a project is *evaluation*.

Let's plan out, 'learning by doing' :

It was the American thinker, John Dewey (1859-1952), author of the famous “learning by doing” theory, who did most to develop the concept of projects in education.

We may note that a project

- is a method, which enables us to move from idea to action, through the various stages in that process.
- is the product of collective activity.
- necessarily involves evaluation, which establishes a link between idea and action.

Steps for conducting a project

Step 1

The whole team of project participants should think about the theme of the project and discuss. Your teacher will help you in the process.

Write the background of the project (60-70 words)

Step 2

Write the project ‘statement’ Then explain in a maximum of five sentences what you mean by your project statement. (in about 50 words)

Step 3

State why (*objective/s*) you want to conduct this project. (50 words)

Step 4

State the *procedure* of conducting the project. In addition, the *materials* that you would need to complete your project, (about 50 words)

Step 5

Collect the materials. Follow the procedure to write your project report, (about 450 words)

Step 6

Complete the report with a conclusion that includes your assessment of the project, (about 50 words)

Step 7

Give your completed project a catchy *title*. (10 -15 words)

Your title must match with your work

(Total words for the project: 700-800) A sample project in outlines

1. The background of this project

In a class discussion, we tried to find out our problems in learning English. We sat in teams of five to discuss our problems. We found that we face a number of problems in learning English but the most important one for us was the problems with words. We decided to take up a project on how to handle words better

2. The project statement

Methods to handle words better

3. The objectives of the project

Our project was to find out

- i. what our problems are with words, and
- ii. how we can learn and use words better

4. Procedure for the project

- i. Finding out the problems class 9 students have with English words
 - a. *through questioning our classmates*
 - b. *through asking our teachers*
 - c. *through asking some parents*
 - d. *through our team discussion*

ii. Listing the problems

iii. Finding out how we can overcome the problems with words

5. Findings and solutions

- i. Team discussion to find out the problems
- ii. Questionnaire and discussion.

A list of 5-8 questions to ask our classmates, teachers, parents to find out the problems which class 9 students have with words

- iii. Discussion of the findings from i. and ii.

Specify the problems :

- a. spelling
 - b. meaning
 - c. part/s of speech to which a word belongs)
- iv. Some solutions to the problems with words
 - a. for spelling: using a dictionary, and spelling games
 - b. for meaning: guessing meaning from the context; using the *gloss* in the text
 - c. for part/s of speech to which a word belongs: from different texts; from a dictionary

6. Conclusion

(A write-up in point form)

- i. What you did
- ii. Why
- iii. How
- iv. Findings
- v. What more can be done in this area

7. The title of the project

Discuss in your team for a catchy title for the project and use that on your project write-up. A sample title for this project: *English Words: Some of our Problems and some Solutions*

