**Brainstorming**

Before you launch into a topic it’s a good idea to activate the learners’ background knowledge and find out what they already know.

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| **Brainstorming:**   * gives your students a chance to **share** with each other what they know * enables the tutor to find out what their learners **know** and if there are any misunderstandings * also helps to **engage** your students by encouraging responses and making them feel they can contribute * brings in lots of **vocabulary** which is important if they are going to read a technical text * also gives a sense of **purpose**   **Mindmapping:**  use the brainstorm idea but take it a step further and put their ideas under headings so the ideas are organised into categories**.** |

**What to do**

At the beginning of the session, write the topic on the board and ask the learner to describe what they know about it. Or in groups, learners can do their own charts.

After your learners have

read the text, watched a youtube clip or taken part in a discussion, see if they

can add to their brainstorm charts.

*(adapted from TEC handbook:Teaching Adults to Read With Understanding p.46)*