

YES, NO & PO

1. Say **yes**, **no** or **po** to the following:

- Five plus six equals twelve.
- The Second World War started in 1943.
- Ice floats in water.
- Girls are usually smarter than boys.
- Holidays are more fun than school.
- The cow jumped over the moon.
- The bug-eyed monsters from Mars have landed.

2. **Judgment**

When you judge something to be true or right you say: "yes".
When you judge something to be untrue you say: "no".
(When you are unsure, you can say "maybe" or "don't know".)

Non-judgment

Sometimes you may not want to judge an idea but to treat it creatively as a fantasy or suggestion or way of looking at things, so you say: **po**.

The drawing on this workcard shows **Yes** and **No** as stable boxes. **Po** is in a circle because creativity has to do with movement, not stability. The word **po** comes from *poetry*, *suppose*, *hypothesis*, etc.

3. Which of the following are **yes** statements, which are **no** statements, and which are **po** statements?

- For one hour every day, shops should cut prices by 10%.
- Supermarkets lose thousands of dollars through shoplifting.
- More people would shop at night if shops stayed open later.
- Shops are there to make money for their owners.
- Shop assistants are always very polite.
- You could press buttons for the things you wanted and then collect them all at the end.
- For many people, shopping is a sort of hobby – they really enjoy it.

4. To apply **po**, use the two-step operation:

1. **Do I want to judge this?**
2. **Do I want to treat it creatively?**

5. Choose which of the following statements to give a **yes**, **no** or **po**.

- No one wants to work hard any more.
- Most intelligent people go to college.
- Politicians are just people who are good at getting elected.
- Many students think they are smarter than they really are.
- Every other week should be a vacation.
- Working in a factory can be made more interesting.
- One day people will be able to eat leaves and grass.
- A rock singer does more for society than ten miners.

★ 6. Make up a deliberate **po** statement about: cars, school food, hair.

7. **Po** is used to show yourself and other people that you are not judging an idea but are treating it creatively as an idea and as a way of looking at things.

STEPPING STONE

1. A stepping stone is something you move on to, not because you want to stay there but because you want to get somewhere else.

The drawing on this workcard shows movement on to a stepping stone and then off again in a forward direction.

Ideas can be used as stepping stones in order to move on to new ideas.

2. Look at the statement:

“Po: both teams should be able to win a basketball game at the same time.”

You could say this statement is silly, ridiculous or impossible. But because we have used **po**, the statement is to be used creatively as a stepping stone. From the statement we can go on to the new idea of treating each half of a basketball game as a *separate* game (then both sides could win).

3. Which of the following statements do you think could be used as a stepping stone to get some new ideas about shoes?

- Shoes wear out much too quickly.
- Shoes are good to eat.
- High heels are bad for the ankles.
- Fashion affects shoes too much.
- Shoes should have voices of their own.
- Everyone should wear the same size shoe.

4. Use the double operation:

1. What can I use as a stepping stone?
2. Where can I move to from the stepping stone?

- ★ 5. You are asked to tackle the problem of traffic congestion in cities. Use the following stepping stone:

“Po: cars should have square wheels.”

6. You are trying to design a new TV program. Use the following stepping stone:

“Po: everyone should be in the dark.”

7. **Making Stepping Stones**

- You can apply **po** to ideas which turn up anyway, instead of rejecting them.
- You can deliberately say something unlikely or outrageous.
- You can turn things back to front, upside-down or inside-out, etc.

8. Make up three deliberate stepping stones which might be used to generate some new ideas for designing chairs.

9. Make up a stepping stone and then use it to design something that could be used in place of tests.

10. An outrageous idea can be used not for its own sake but as a stepping stone in order to get to a new idea.