How to create Jazz chants
to introduce and practise everyday spoken English

CEFR level: Any level

Skills Focus: speaking

Resources:
- Ready-made chants or create your own

What are Jazz Chants:

- A jazz chant has a four-beat rhythm: 1, 2, 3, 4
- Each beat will be either a stressed word or a clap
- The first beat is the first stressed word (which may not be the first word)
- Chants use natural spoken English
- Chants can be used in classes of any size
- Chants don't require any special materials
- Chants can be used with all age groups
- Chants do not require musical ability

Why use Jazz Chants:
- Jazz Chants introduce and reinforce the language structures and functions of everyday spoken English.
- They provide an innovative, exciting, and effective way of developing fluidity and natural speed in speaking 'chunks' of language.
- They are simple and repetitive, providing students with language they can really use.
- They build up learners' confidence and help create a sense of achievement and success
- They appeal to students of all ages, and work well with large classes.
- TPR, pair work and role-playing activities naturally link in with Jazz Chants.
- They can be personalised to fit your learner's needs

The magic formula for a vocabulary chant:

2-3-1

da da

da da da

da

To create a vocabulary jazz chant you will need words that have three syllables, two syllables and one syllable.

The magic formula of creating a vocabulary jazz chant is to have

A 2-syllable word
A 3-syllable word
A 1-syllable word

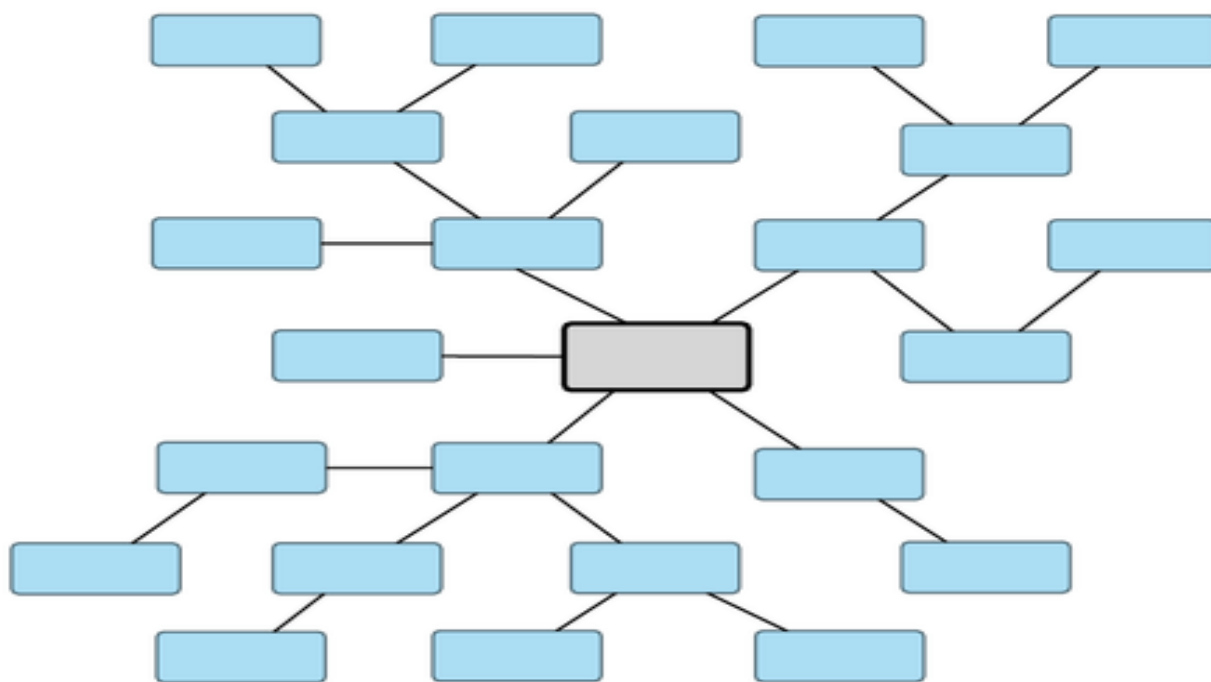| da da	da da
da da da	da da da
da	da da
	da da da

da da	da da
da da da	da da da
da	da

Creating your own Jazz Chant:

1. Choose a topic. This is one of the biggest advantages of writing your own jazz chant as you know exactly what your students' language needs are, what they are studying at the moment and also what their interests are.
2. Brainstorm vocabulary related to that topic. Let's imagine that you have chosen to do a chant on sports for students preparing for GESE Grade 4 or ISE Foundation. And you are going to create a 3-word chant on sports.

3. Now say the words out loud to yourself to see how many sounds there are in each word. E.g. Baseball (2), basketball (3), golf (1)
4. Make a list of all your 3 syllable words, a list of all your 2-syllable words and then all of your one syllable words.

2 syllable words	3 syllable words	1 syllable words

5. Now you are ready to write your jazz chant

2-syllable word: _____ e.g.

3-syllable word: _____ e.g.

1-syllable word: _____ e.g.

2-syllable word: _____ e.g.

3-syllable word: _____ e.g.

1-syllable word: _____ e.g.

2-syllable word: _____ e.g.

3-syllable word: _____ e.g.

1-syllable word: _____ e.g.

2-syllable word: _____ e.g.

3-syllable word: _____ e.g.

2-syllable word: _____ e.g.

3-syllable word: _____ e.g.

2-syllable word: _____ e.g.

3-syllable word: _____ e.g.

1-syllable word: _____ e.g.

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