

Lesson plan

Unit	2. Enhancing Life Competencies and Entrepreneurial Competencies
Lesson	5. Problem Solving
Recommended language level	A2 - B2

<p>Outcomes</p> <p>By the end of this session, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● gain confidence in analyzing and addressing problems collaboratively ● strengthen critical thinking and decision-making skills ● understand the importance of balancing creativity and practicality in problem-solving
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slideshow ● Whiteboard ● A handout summarizing the problem (complaints, budget constraints, space layout). ● Paper, markers, sticky notes for group brainstorming. ● Optional: Internet access for quick research.
<p>Frameworks connections</p> <p>Cambridge Life Competencies Framework: creative thinking, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, learning to learn, social responsibility</p> <p>Cambridge Employability Skills Framework: collaboration and teamwork, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving, leadership and initiative, self-management and resilience, creativity and innovation</p> <p>SPIRE Framework: setup, perform, inspire, review, empower</p>

Duration	60 minutes (expandable to 90 minutes)	
Overview	Stage	Timing
	Introduction and session objectives	5 min
	Understanding the problem	15 min
	Brainstorming the solutions	10 min
	Action plan development	10 min
	Presentations and feedback	15 min
	Reflection	5 min

Procedure			
Stage	Aim	Duration	Procedure
1. Let's get ready: What are we doing today? Slide 2	To introduce the theme; to get students interested by doing a warm-up activity.	5 min	The teacher shows the objectives, explains what the lesson will be about and tells the students that they will come back to these questions at the end of the lesson in order to reflect. Warm-up: Chain game - I went shopping and I bought an apple, a banana, a cherry etc.
2. Understanding the problem Slide 3, 4, 5	To raise curiosity about the problem by asking questions; to discuss the importance of teamwork; to encourage the discussion about the possible solutions.	15 min	Introduce the activity by explaining the scenario: "The school canteen faces complaints about long queues, unhealthy food options, and insufficient seating." Teams have a budget of \$2,000 and a two-month timeline to propose solutions. Discuss the importance of teamwork and creativity in addressing challenges. Divide students into small groups (3–5 members each). Provide each group with the handout detailing the problem. Ask groups to discuss and identify the key issues they need to solve:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are queues so long? - What healthier food options could be introduced? - How can seating be optimized within the available space? <p>Encourage questions and provide clarification as needed.</p>
3. Brainstorming the solutions Slide 6	To brainstorm possible solutions to address the identified issue.	10 min	<p>Each group brainstorms possible solutions to address the identified issues. Provide prompts, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “What modern solutions (e.g., technology) could streamline operations?” - “How can you use the budget creatively to address multiple complaints?” (Slide 6) <p>Ask groups to list their ideas on paper or sticky notes for easy reference.</p>
4. Action plan development Slides 7, 8	To create an action plan with the possible solutions for the problem; to use Powerful Questioning to refine ideas and solutions.	10 min	<p>Groups select 2–3 solutions and develop an action plan for implementation. The action plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steps for implementation. - Estimated costs and resources. - Expected outcomes and impact. <p>Circulate among groups to provide guidance, using Powerful Questioning (slide 7) to challenge their assumptions and refine ideas.</p>
5. Presentations and feedback Slides 9, 10, 11	To present action plans and solutions in front of the class; to get constructive feedback.	15 min	<p>Each group delivers a 2–3 minute presentation outlining their solutions and action plan.</p> <p>Provide Positive Reinforcement for creative and well-thought-out ideas. Facilitate a short Q&A session for peers to ask constructive questions.</p> <p>Reflect on the teamwork and problem-solving process with the class:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “What challenges did you face while brainstorming solutions?” - “How did you prioritize your ideas?” - “How can these strategies help you solve other real-world problems?”
7.Reflection Let’s check - What did I learn today? Slide 10	To revisit lesson objectives and consolidate learning (CLS - Knowledge)	5 min	Teachers can ask questions to see whether the aims have been achieved but more importantly to point out the techniques students could use to build confidence and enhance their problem-solving and presentation skills.

<p>Additional considerations</p> <p>Anticipated Problems and Solutions</p> <p>Low engagement in discussion/reflection: Some students may be reluctant to speak out and present in front of the others.</p> <p>Solution: Teachers could assign rotating roles (speaker, note-taker, summariser) and students exchange them evenly.</p> <p>Uneven participation in discussions: More confident students may dominate.</p> <p>Solution: Use pair-work rather than group work.</p> <p>Differentiation Strategies</p> <p>Mixed ability in language use: Encourage students to note ideas in L1 first if needed, then share in English with support. Provide key vocabulary lists.</p> <p>Varied confidence levels: Allow options for contributing - verbally or in writing.</p> <p>Choice: In the reflection stage, students can choose between oral and written answers.</p>



Teacher Reflections or Notes