



GRAFFITI NAMES

GRADES

3-4

5-6

DURATION

3-4 HOURS

LANGUAGE AIMS

colours, shapes and style of graffiti art, hobbies and interests, personality traits

ART TECHNIQUES

drawing, soft pastels, stamping techniques

GRAFFITI NAMES



Art

- Explore the visual style of graffiti art.
- Design a graffiti name that incorporates symbols to represent interests and personality traits.
- Learn how to create colour gradients with soft pastels.
- Make a brick wall background using stamping techniques.

STYLE OF GRAFFITI ART

COLOURS: yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, green / bright, dark, contrasting, gradient, colourful, neon

SHAPES AND LETTER STYLES:

bold, curved, block, bubble, 3D, outline, shadow, overlapping

DECORATIVE ELEMENTS:

arrows, stars, drips, patterns, highlights

Grammar

SENTENCES TO DESCRIBE WHAT THEY SEE:

The letters are... / The colours look... / There are... / I can see...

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

What do you like to do?

- **I like to...:** I like to play football
- **I like +ing:** I like playing football (draw, paint, dance, read, swim, run, cook, listen to music, play sports, etc)

POSITIVE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE PERSONALITY TRAITS

creative, friendly, funny, kind, brave, confident, helpful, imaginative, energetic, honest, curious, etc.

I am + adjective: I am creative and kind. My graffiti shows that I am creative because I used bright colours and a paint-brush symbol.

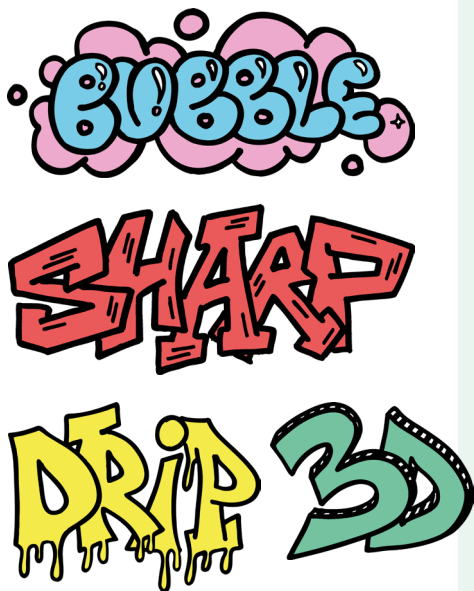
How to teach the language

Students love creating art about themselves. In this unit, they will design graffiti-style lettering of their names and incorporate personal elements - such as hobbies, interests, and sentences to describe their personality - to create a visual expression of who they are.

Lesson 1: Graffiti style

Show a variety of graffiti artworks (street art photos, tags, murals, etc.). Guide a short discussion with the whole class: What can you notice about the letters, colours, and shapes? Use the word bank and sentence starters to help them answer.

After the discussion, students design their graffiti names, applying what they learned about colour, style, and symbolism. Encourage creative use of shapes, lines, and visual effects (step 1).



What do you notice about the letters?

- The letters may be **big** and **bold**, have **curvy** or **sharp** angles.
- They may be **bubble** letters, **block** letters, or **3D** letters.
- Some letters **overlap** or **connect**.
- The lines may be **thick**.

"The letters are..." / "They look..." / "I can see..."
(big, small, curvy, straight, bubble style, block style, 3D, overlapping)

What do you notice about the colours?

- The colours may be **bright**, **contrasting**, or **neon**.
- There are **gradients**.

"The artist uses ... colours"
(bright, dark, neon, contrasting, warm, cool)

What extra elements can you see?

- There may be **drop shadows** or **highlights**.
- There may be dots, arrows, stars, drips, flames or bubbles.
- The letters seem to **move** or **jump**.
- The shape of the letters make it look energetic, angry, fun, or happy.

"Around the letters, there are..."
The artist added... to make it interesting.
(drop shadow, outline, stars, arrows, drips, bubbles, patterns)

"It looks like the letters are..." / "It feels..."
(fun, energetic, calm, angry, exciting, happy)

Lesson 2: My Hobbies

In this lesson, students build on their graffiti name designs by adding visual elements that represent their hobbies and interests. Through guided brainstorming and language modelling, they learn to express personal preferences using the structures I like to... and I like + -ing....

Ask the class:

"How can you show your hobbies or interests through your artwork?"

- A paintbrush replacing the letter l for someone who likes painting
- A football as the dot on the i for someone who likes football
- A musical note as part of a letter for someone who loves music
- A book for someone who likes reading

On the whiteboard, model the sentence:

I like to.../ I like + -ing

Ask students:

"What do you like to do?"

Elicit full-sentence answers and write a few examples on the board:

"I like to draw".

"I like playing football".

For more advanced students, you can introduce different structures: *I love to / I am interested in / My favourite thing to do is...*

Use flashcards or visuals to support understanding and prompt ideas.

Lesson 3: Personality traits

Explain that today they will focus on describing their personality using positive adjectives - and that their writing will become part of the brick wall background for their graffiti name, as if they were writing messages or scribbles on a wall. Display word cards with positive personality traits on the board. Model the target structure on the board:

I am + adjective: *I am creative and friendly.*

Distribute mini whiteboards or scrap paper to each student. Ask students to write down 5 adjectives that they think fit their personality: **“Look at the adjectives on the board. Which ones describe you best?”** Students write their “I am” sentences on the graffiti wall using a white Posca marker. Then, with a colored marker, they outline the letters to make them stand out, as shown in the example image. The sentences should be scattered across the wall in varied directions and orientations, creating the look of spontaneous scribbles or street art, rather than neat, straight lines.



Game 1

Find someone who...



The teacher calls out an adjective:
“Find someone who is creative!”

Students walk around the room and choose one classmate they think matches that adjective. When they meet someone, they ask and answer: *“Are you creative?” “Yes, I am!”*

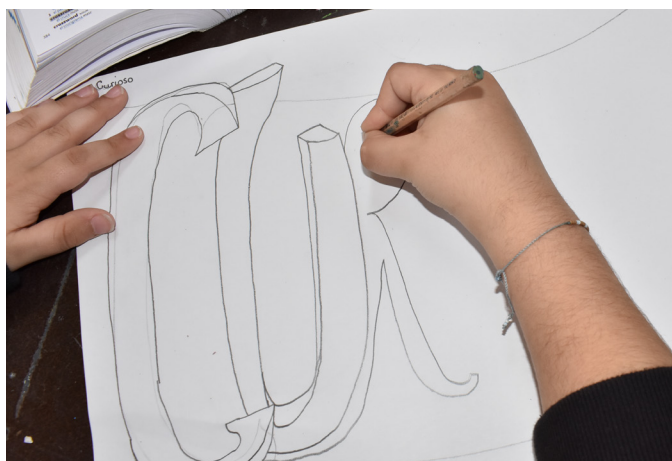
For more advanced students, encourage them to explain their choice by adding a reason:
“You are creative because you like drawing!”
Optionally, have students write sentences about their friends: *“My friend Anna is kind.”*

Art materials

- A3 drawing paper
- pencils
- thick black markers
- soft pastels
- scissors
- mod Podge or white glue (applied with a paintbrush)
- card paper (200gsm, A3 or bigger)
- acrylic paint (brown or cream tones to paint the wall) or A3 coloured paper
- rectangular sponge or rubber block to stamp the
- white pencils or white Posca pens for scribbles



How to teach the art



Lesson 1. Lightly draw two lines in pencil to use as guides for your letters. Then, sketch the letters of your name inside the guides. For detailed instructions on drawing graffiti-style lettering, refer to “**How to Draw Your Name in Graffiti Style**” on page 6.



Lesson 2. Choose 3-4 colours that sit next to each other on the colour wheel so they blend smoothly. Arrange your soft pastels in this blending order beside your workspace. Overlap the colours slightly and use your finger or a blending tool to gently blend where the colours meet, creating a smooth gradient effect.



Lesson 3a. Paint an A3 (or larger) sheet of paper with a single block colour. Paint with acrylic paint using a recycled card to drag the paint and add texture. Alternatively, use coloured paper. Once dry, stamp brick shapes using a rectangular sponge or rubber block dipped in white acrylic paint, arranging them in a brick-wall pattern. Leave one finger separation between bricks.



Lesson 3b. While the bricks are drying, carefully cut around the outline of your name. To cut out the spaces inside the letters (like in A, O, or P), gently fold the paper slightly and make a small snip to create an opening. Then, insert your scissors through the cut and trim neatly around the inner shapes.

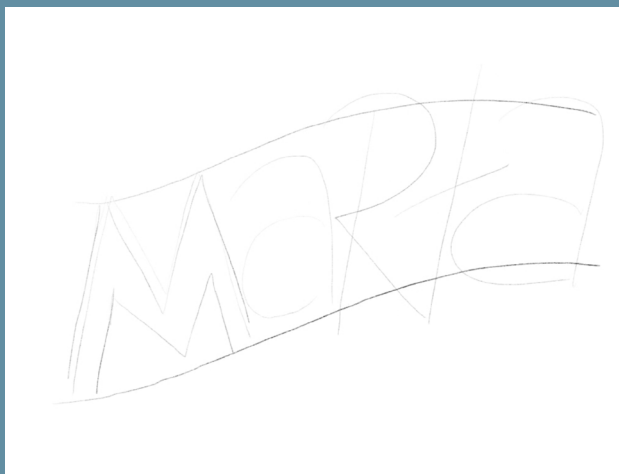


Lesson 3c. Place your cut-out name on a scrap piece of paper and carefully go over the edges again with a black marker. This will cover any small white areas around the outline and make your letters look bold and clean.



Lesson 3d. Carefully apply glue to the back of your name cut-out using a brush and Mod Podge or white glue. Press it onto your background, smoothing from one end to the other to prevent wrinkles or bubbles. Finally, use a white Posca pen to write sentences to describe your personality, as explained on page 4.

How to draw your name in graffiti style



Step 1. Lightly draw two lines in pencil to use as guides for your letters. Then, sketch the letters of your name inside the guides. Play around with different letter sizes, styles, and overlaps - graffiti lettering looks more dynamic when it's not even!



Step 2. Think of your letters as shapes, not just writing. Add volume by turning them into block letters, and experiment with making them tilt, curve, or stretch to create movement and style. Try using soft, rounded corners or sharp, angular edges to match your personality. You can also add boxes at the base of the letters or include classic graffiti details like arrows, stars, or drips to give your design extra character and energy.



Step 3. Once you're happy with your sketch, go over your letters with a black marker or pen to define the shapes. Use bold, clean lines to make your letters stand out.



Step 4. Imagine the light is coming from one direction—for example, the bottom left. The 3D parts of your letters will extend away from the light. From each corner or edge of your letters, draw a short diagonal line in the same direction (such as up and to the right). Make sure all your diagonal lines are parallel and about the same length to keep the 3D effect consistent. Next, connect the ends of these diagonal lines by drawing lines between them. This will create the sides of your letters and complete the 3D illusion. Use a darker color or tone for these areas to create the illusion of shadow and depth. This contrast will make your graffiti letters pop off the page!

BOOBS

SHAP

Drip

3