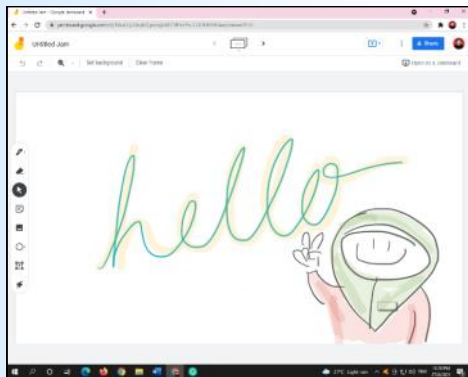




**The Way to Jam with Jamboard**  
*by Norhafizah Binti Abdul Halil*

As a visual person, I love to scribble. I just love to write and draw pictures on a whiteboard while teaching in class – before the pandemic, obviously. However, since we have to move from in-class to online distance learning, I have been searching for ways to feel like teaching in class again. We have to admit, sometimes it is quite difficult to get the students to be fully involved and engaged with online lessons and that is when I found Jamboard a.k.a. digital whiteboard - thanks to Google. It is simple like a whiteboard but smarter. It is so easy to use and it is great for collaboration. You can find Jamboard on Google Apps or simply type [jamboard.google.com](https://jamboard.google.com) by hitting the plus sign button at the bottom to create a new jam (page) and you are ready to go. You can use Jamboard on a computer or any mobile device. It will be a lot easier for you to write and draw if you have a stylus or a digital pencil.



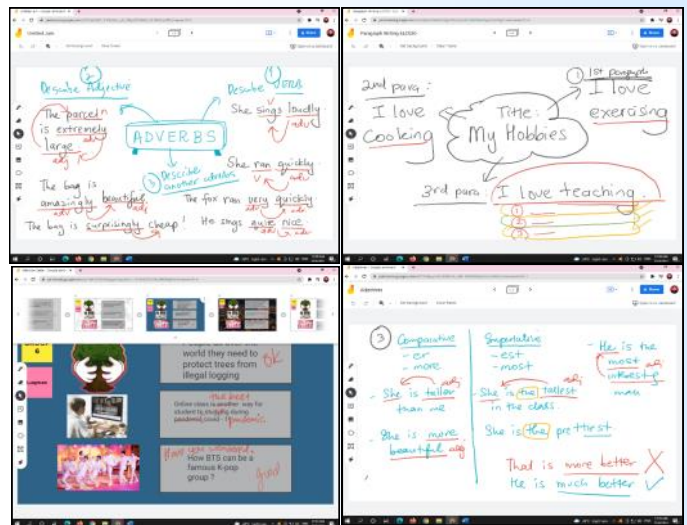
*The Jamboard's frame*

On the left side of the frame, you can find several functions: a pen, marker, eraser, laser (great to use while teaching), sticky notes, text box, and shapes. My favourite is the add image function as it will direct you right to the Google Image search button and you can transfer the image to your Jamboard's frame. Just like the other Google products, you need not worry about losing any of your work as it is automatically saved in Google Drive. On top of that, you can share the board with others via a customizable link and start working together in real-time. Yes, everyone can get their hands on the same jam. Jamboard allows me to teach and students to experience working in groups with their classmates just like in a traditional classroom setting. Like I mentioned before, Jamboard in my

opinion, is one of the best applications when it comes to collaboration. I believe it is rather difficult to get students to work in groups online but Jamboard makes it possible. While they are working on a task, I can monitor and observe their participation as their names will appear when they sign in using their Google accounts. That is how I monitor the students over time. Recently, Jamboard has been integrated into Google Meet where you can find the "Whiteboarding" button that will direct you to Jamboard, so students can talk through ideas as they work on Jamboard. Here, I would like to share how I use Jamboard in my classroom. Trust me, these are just some simple lessons I did in my class and I believe there are a lot more potentials using this product.

**Teaching Purposes**

Like I said before, I love the feel of writing on the whiteboard while teaching - when you can circle, underline and



scribble important words. I have been using it a lot to teach grammar and essay writing.

**Playing Games**

Jamboard is also a great application to play games, including language games. Some of the games students have played are Guess the Idioms, the Memory Game, and the rearranging words game. In Guess the Idioms game, stu-

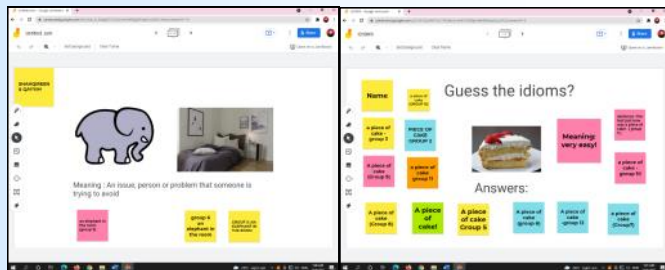
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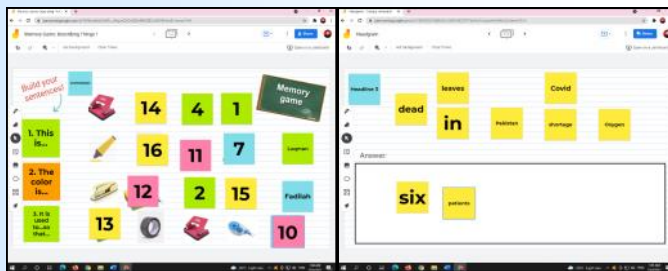
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dents need to choose a picture or a combination of two pictures that will represent their choice of idioms. All students need to guess their classmates' idioms by visiting each other's jams and drop their answers there. I played the Memory game with my pre-diploma students and it helped them a lot in forming grammatically correct sentences. First, they need to search for the same image hiding behind the number and then create simple sentences using the image they have paired up correctly. Another game is called Headgram. Students are given jumbled up sentences and they need to rearrange the words by dragging the sticky notes into the provided answer box to create the correct sentence. They also learn the various ways of arranging the words in a sentence in a grammatically correct order.



Guess the idioms

Guess the idioms

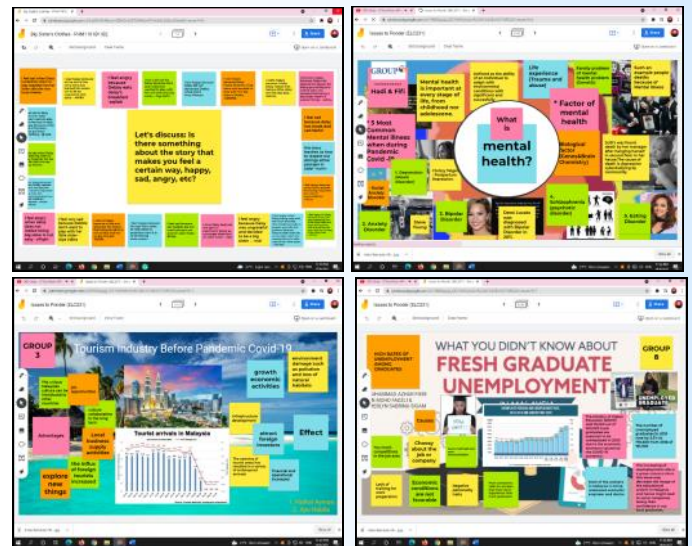


Memory game

Headgram

### Presentation Tool

Finally, of course, we can discuss and share ideas on Jamboard. One way is to give a topic to the students and tell them to come out with an infographic-like display. This technique can also be used to prepare students for LIRA and PRL assessments. One advantage of this app is that it stimulates further discussion among students. In addition, students can be creative in their presentations. Here are examples of some topics I did with my ELC231 students:



The last plus point using Jamboard is its exportability. You can either save the frames as a PNG file or download them as PDF. Alternatively, students can always return to their own Jamboard and view the lesson again. For easy reference, I usually download the frame as a PDF and directly share it with them on our WhatsApp group immediately after class.

I hope Jamboard will allow inserting audio or video to spread its versatility in the near future. In short, this application is something you might want to consider if you are looking for a more fun way of teaching online. It is the simplicity that gets me the most and the highpoint is, it is a great place for students to collaborate and share ideas without competing to be heard and of course for me to feel like writing on a whiteboard again. Trust me, your students will love it. Well, at least I know my students did. Good luck exploring!

