

BEGINNING WITH A VERB

Pick a verb; any will do. How about chew? Think about the act of chewing and make a list of scenes that come to mind.

Here are a dozen to help you get started.

- 1. Dog chewing bone**
- 2. Homeless man chewing Thanksgiving turkey**
- 3. Children at breakfast table**
- 4. Student chewing pencil during test**
- 5. Puppy chewing toy**
- 6. Man chewing tobacco**
- 7. Friends chewing the fat**
- 8. Eskimo woman chewing on leather**
- 9. Baby chewing first**
- 10. Baseball player chewing gum**
- 11. Lion chewing its kill**
- 12. Me not chewing my spinach**

When you finish the list, select one of the original ideas and start another column on the board. Based on that one, ask your students to make a new list of what they imagine. You can keep making new lists but in a short time your students will have all sorts of ideas to think about and write about. Something will probably stir a memory and off they'll go. One advantage of this approach is that everyone winds up writing about something that interests them. They got to choose their subject.