

Brainstorming: Lists

You cannot write if you don't have something to write about. So, before they start to write, good writers *brainstorm* ideas (they think of and write down ideas that they can use).

In this book, you will practice several different ways of brainstorming. Try them all, and then choose the way that works best for you.

➤ How to make a list

- Use a separate, whole sheet of paper.
- Write your topic at the top.
- Write down as many ideas as you can about your topic.
- Write single words or short phrases, but don't write long sentences.
- Write down every idea that comes to you, and don't worry about whether the ideas are "good" or "bad."

➤ Editing your list

After you brainstorm, you need to go back and see which ideas you can use. This is called *editing*.

- Underline or highlight the good ideas.
- Cross out ideas that are not related to your topic or that you don't want to use.

5 This example shows a list for the paragraph on page 20, *Relaxing at the Beach*. Cross out the ideas that the writer didn't use. Compare your list with a partner, and say why you think the writer didn't use the crossed out ideas.

6 Choose one of the topics below. In five minutes, make a list of ideas. Share your list with a partner. How many descriptive adjectives did your partner use?

- My favorite place to relax
- An interesting city

7 Edit your list by crossing out unrelated ideas or ones you don't like. Show your partner what you crossed out, and explain your decisions.

