

Some Ideas

Primarily, your job is to help your tutee with homework. However, sometimes the student will not have any work to do and in that case you can do a different activity. The following is some advice on how to work with your tutee.

Homework

- Remember, **do not give students the answers**. Instead, give them information or clues to help them find the answers themselves.
 - For example, if a student is stumped by the questions at the end of a chapter in a textbook, help the student find the section of the chapter where the answer can be found.
 - Sometimes it's tempting to give your tutees the answer if they are taking a long time, but resist the temptation. They won't feel good about themselves if they can't answer on their own.
- Don't forget to **offer praise** when your tutee gets the answers right. It'll keep your tutee from getting discouraged.
- **If students refuse to do the homework** and want you to do it for them, refuse to do it. However, don't let this bring the tutoring to a standstill. A good tactic is to offer to do one problem if they will do the next one, and so forth.

Non-Homework Options

- **Read a book with your tutee.**
 - Let the student pick out a book from the library or feel free to bring a book that you think might be at the student's level (the ACT Center has books available for more basic reading levels, as well as the Carleton library).
 - Be sure to write down the words your tutee has problems with; afterwards you can make a game to practice the words.
- **Play games.** The following are some possible games:
 - *Write down words on a piece of paper* (no more than 7 at a time) and then write the translation of the word in a second column parallel to the first (or if you don't know the language, draw a picture and let your tutee write the translations). Then let the student study the list for a few minutes, before taking the paper away. On a new sheet of paper, draw a picture or write the word in the student's language and have your tutee guess the English translation by writing it out on the paper.
 - *Hangman*: You can use words with which your tutee had difficulty when s/he was reading. After the student guesses the word, have him or her draw a picture of the word or explain what it is.
 - For more advanced students, you can ask them to write a story (1/2 to 1 page) about their teacher and classmates, their families or their interests. Have them read the story out loud (don't correct them while they're reading) and, after they are done, offer written corrections of grammar and/or spelling. But be sure to give more compliments than criticism or they won't want to do it again. Also, make sure to give them specific guidance with the story by giving them topics or situations from which to choose. If they are having trouble getting started, writing the first line of their story for them will help them get their thoughts flowing. Let them spend as much time on the story as they like; if you run out of time, you can continue next time.