

Creating an acrostic poem for Mitch's 80th (really?) birthday

Task	Write a letter to Mitch's birthday including an acrostic based on the letters of his name.
Summary	After explaining the task to the learners, the teacher reactivates basic knowledge on the structure of a personal letter. In pairs, the introduction and the closing statement are drafted; the most promising results are voted upon. Meanwhile, an expert group research fitting aphorisms, and the two best examples are selected. In plenum the acrostic is created co-constructively taking into consideration Rosenberg's NVC (non-violent communication) and the 10 C's of classroom talk: communication, cooperation, constructivism, consensus, compassion, confidence, courtesy, courage, curiosity, and cleverness.
Level	A1 to C2, beginners to native-like (friends, colleagues, teachers, students, everybody)
Competencies	Complex task with focus on vocabulary, creating, and writing
Task demand	Collecting suitable adjectives, deciding cooperatively on the best examples, remembering fitting aphorisms, becoming aware of the structure of a personal letter (salutation, introduction, body, closing statement, signature line)
Task support	Apart from pre-knowledge, no support needed; access to online collections of adjectives strongly forbidden

Model solution ... sorry, sample, of course

Dear Mitch,

Birthdays are good for us as statistical data show that those people who have the most of them live the longest.

And let me wish you many more of them because you are our spiritus rector, the directing spirit, from whom we like to be guided intellectually, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

As you know:

Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Acrostic:

M agnificent
I ntelligent
T houghtful
C harming
H umorous

L ively
E ncouraging
G ood-natured
U nique
T alented
K indhearted
E nthusiastic

You are living proof of the following aphorism:
It's not the years in your life, but the life in your years that counts.

Wishing you many happy returns of your day of honour,
Engi Thaler