



## Author Plus Pro 5 - Making a Countdown exercise

### What is Countdown?

Countdown is a text reconstruction activity which is especially useful for language training. The author puts the text into the program and when the student sees it, each word is replaced by a line. Students use their knowledge of sentence structure, grammar, vocabulary and functional language to build up the text.

1. Go to the Banking unit you created in Tutorial 3. (Or create a unit called Banking.) Click on the unit name, and click on New at the bottom of the Exercises box. Choose Countdown. Put the mouse over Countdown and you will see its description: 'Type or paste in a continuous text. Learners see the text as gaps and have to reconstruct it by guessing words.' Click OK.



2. Imagine you have been teaching your trainees how to write polite letters of refusal. You now want to help them consolidate what they have learned with an online activity. You are going to show them a sample text, which they will then have to build up for themselves. Write the title, Polite refusal. Choose Image, Business. Under Settings, click Show the text beforehand. Now click on the Content button at the top. Type in this text:

Dear Mr Davis

Thank you for your application for a personal loan.

We have given the matter our fullest consideration and I regret to say that your application has not been approved.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely  
Freda Ho  
Loans Manager

3. The learners will build up this text by guessing it, word by word. Clearly there are some items they cannot guess, such as people's names. Select *Mr Davis* and click on Add a word. Do the same with Freda Ho. Click on Preview. As you attempt the exercise there may be some words you simply cannot guess. Ctrl click on them for a hint (which is an anagram of the word).



4. Finally, go back to the Settings screen and experiment with: Show the text beforehand; Uniform gap length; Make the exercise case sensitive; and Score-based feedback. Preview each time to see how the exercise changes. Consider also how you could use this exercise type for dictation.