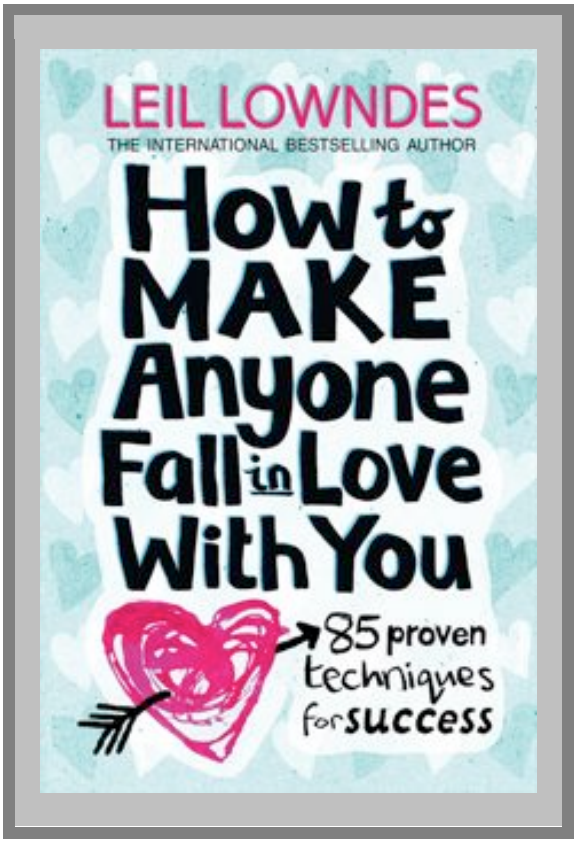
‘How to’ books

Language level:	Elementary – Intermediate (A1 – B1)
Learner type:	Teens; Adults
Time:	25 minutes
Activity:	Dictations; Reconstructing titles from memory
Topic:	Self-help books
Language:	How to + verb; (Know how to do something)
Materials:	Slideshow



Preparation, materials and equipment

1. For this activity you will need a PDF slideshow of book cover images. It can be downloaded at:

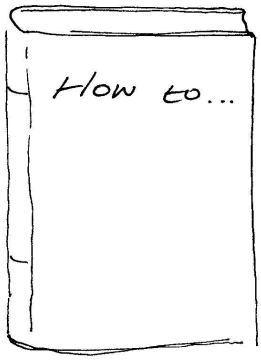
   http://bit.ly/dTq2bs

2. Decide how you are going to display the slideshow in class. For example:

   - Laptop, desktop, tablet computer, mobile phone (good for small groups and one-to-one classes)
   - Computer, projector + screen

Lesson plan

1. Tell students that you have 12 book images to show them. Tell them that the title of each book begins with the words, "*How to*". Reinforce this with a diagram on the board.



2. Ask students to suggest possible titles of such books. If possible, elicit a few and write them on the board.

3. Dictate the 12 book titles to your students (i.e. before showing them the slideshow).

- How to learn any language
- How to be an outstanding primary school teacher
- How to spell like a champ
- How to see yourself as you really are
- How to marry a fabulous man
- How to survive the end of the world
- How not to look old
- How to think like a horse
- How to make anyone fall in love with you
- How to change the world
- How to deal with jealousy
- How to improve your memory

Note that you may want to pre-teach some unknown words. For example:

Outstanding:	Another word for excellent
Champ:	Short for champion
Deal with:	If you *deal with* an emotional situation or problem, you accept it and learn to live with it.

4. Show students the 12 book images and allow them to check what they have written.

5. Show the slideshow a second time. Ask students to work in pairs and think of a single piece of advice that each book might offer. This can be serious or silly. Later do feedback and find out who had the best ideas.

For example:

- How to think like a horse: Move into a stable
- How not to look old: Wear a lot of makeup
- How do deal with jealousy: Take up boxing

6. After discussing the last book title on the list ("*How to improve your memory*") ask your students how good their own memories are. Tell them you are going to play a memory game. Ask everyone to put away their dictated book titles so that they are out of sight. Make sure that the slideshow is no longer running and ask students to recall and write down as many titles as possible. They can do this in pairs if they like. Note that by recalling and writing down the titles, students have to reconstruct the target language (how to + verb).

Follow up

Point out that the **how to + verb** structure is very common in **do you know?** questions. Ask students to write a paragraph in which they write 2 things that they know how to do and 2 things that they don't know how to do:

I know how to _____ and _____ but I don't know how to _____ or _____.

Example: *I know how to upload a video onto YouTube and sew on a button but I don't know how to use Adobe photoshop or think like a horse.*