GO AHEAD, MAKE UP NEW WORDS

1. *Read the title and information about the TED talk speaker. Then, answer the questions below.*

ERIN MCKEAN Lexicographer

Erin McKean is a lexicographer; she writes dictionaries. She searches for words everywhere—from books and blogs, to parties and Twitter feeds. She recently started *Wordnik*, an online dictionary that contains all the traditionally accepted words and definitions, but also asks users to contribute new words and new uses for old words. McKean is also an active blogger and the author of many books, including the *Weird and Wonderful Words* series.

Erin McKean's idea worth spreading is that making up new words will help us use language to express what we mean and will create new ways for us to understand one another.

1. What does it mean to *make up* a new word? Have you ever made up any new words, either in English or in your native language?
2. What is a lexicographer?
3. Do new words appear in your language every year? If so, where do you think they come from? Who do you think creates them?
4. Give an example of a new word in your native language. Translate it for your partner. Why do you think this new word appeared in your language?

2.. *Read the list of topics below. Select the points you think the talk will include.*

1. _____ how dictionary writers decide which words to put in the dictionary
2. _____ how new words are created in English
3. _____ who creates new words in a language
4. _____ why McKean decided to become a lexicographer

3. *Now watch the TED talk and check your answers.*

vol·un·teer /ˌvälənˈtir/ agent of change
LIVEWORKSHEETS