



What and Why?

Jamboard is a virtual white board tool that is part of the Google services. Jamboard is used in an internet browser (e.g. Google Chrome or Safari). You can create and save jam files that have content such as writing or notes, pictures, and drawings. Many people can edit and add content to a jam file at the same time. You need an internet connection and a Google account to use Jamboard.

Jamboard is a useful tool for collecting information so that you can present it to others and edit it together. It is a good platform for group work.

NOTE:

Google will not support Jamboard tafter 31.12.2024. However, similar services can be found:

Flinga <https://flinga.fi> (5 boards for free)

Figma <https://www.figma.com/figjam/jamboard-alternative/>

Lucid <https://lucid.co/compare/jamboard-replacement>

Series One Desk 27 <https://www.avocor.com/products/google-series-one-desk-27/>

Padlet <https://padlet.com/account/setup> (3 boards for free)





How to use Jamboard



Think and discuss:

Watch the instructional video of Jamboard (Vimeo) and discuss with the group:

- Have you used it before? Does it remind you of another app or platform that you have used? (slides, powerpoint,...?)
- What could young learners at school use Jamboard for?
- What do young learners need to use the platform? (skills, devices, accounts etc)
- Is Jamboard easy or difficult to use?

Important! Working together in one shared file:

- While collaborating in one shared Jam file, all the content is available for every group member. They can edit and change everything if they want.
- This means you have to respect other group members' work and agree on basic rules together.
- At least, agree on the following:
 - What can I add to the Jam?
 - Can I edit other group members' work?
 - What should I do if I accidentally change other group member's material? (click undo, this should cancel the latest action)
- Make plans before adding material to the Jam file. Everybody should have his/her own task and know what to do.





Sign up and Get started!

- **Practice together: How can you access a jam file created by someone else?**
 - Prepare a jam file with a title “Good digiCoach”.
 - Share access link to the Digital Coaches.
 - Ask everybody to add a note/notes with words or pictures that describe a good Digital Coach.
 - Extra: Discuss the topic together.
- **How can you create your own jam files?**
 - Sign in to your own Google account.
 - Find Jamboard and open it. Create a new jam file about yourself.
 - Title the jam with your name.



How does it work?!

- **Explore the tools that are available for editing the blank “white board”/”the jam”.**
 - Edit the jam file about yourself: add information/pictures you are willing to share with the group.
 - Extra: Try different devices for submitting content. Are there differences between the devices?
- **Work with your partner:**
 - What was the best feature you found?
 - Did you find a feature your partner didn't find or did not know how to use?
 - Help each other to use the features if you can.
- **Role play:**
 - With a pair, practice giving instructions on how to use Jamboard.
 - One of you takes the role of a young learner who does not know how to use Jamboard yet, and the other one takes the role of a DigiCoach at work.
 - Switch roles.





Get Creative!



A portfolio for the module:

- Create a digital portfolio for the module.
- Add a new page for each theme/app/service that you learned how to use.
- Add pictures and text telling what you have practiced and learned and how was it.

Play Pictionary with your group:

- Everybody joins the same jam.
- Decide on a theme for the pictures.
- One person draws a picture and the rest of the group tries to guess the what it is.
- The jam can be projected to a white board or everybody can follow on their own screen.

Jamboard as a mindmap - support for a presentation:

- Choose the topic of your presentation. For example, if the assignment is to do a presentation on an animal that lives in the area, choose one that you'd like to know more of. Create a cover page by adding the name of the animal and a picture of it.
- Plan the structure of your presentation. What are you going to tell about the animal? Create a new jam page for each theme: 1) description 2) nutrition/food 3) habitation 4) reproduction 5) fun facts about the animal
- Find information on the themes you chose and add relevant facts on each page, under a suitable title.
- This is an easy way to build a coherent presentation and the jam can be used during the presentation as a visual material.





Jamboard as a planning tool for writing:

- Use a jam file to plan an essay or a written story
- Create separate pages to plan and write down essential information about the story
- Example of planning a story: the jam has the following pages
 - Characters and location/locations (Who is the story about? Who else is in the story? Where does it all happen?)
 - The opening scene (How does the story begin?)
 - The challenge/event (What is the key event that happens in the story? What is the purpose of the story?)
 - How was the challenge overcome or how did the events turn out?
 - The end scene (How does the story end?)
- Use the plan when you write the story. With the plan you can write a story that is coherent and easy to follow. It also makes your job as the writer easier!

Create a story book with text and pictures:

- Each jam page is a page of the book.
- This can be a solo or group task.

Public speaking:

- What is important when you speak to an audience?
- Ask volunteers to present their Jams about themselves.
- Saying good things about others: What is important when you give positive feedback?
- Add a second page to your own Jam files and add a title “Positive things about me” and share it with a link to others.
- Join each others’ Jams to give positive feedback to the owner of the Jam file





Example of Lesson plans

Lesson 1 (60 minutes)

Goals:

Introduction, learning how to join a Jam file for cooperation, learning how to create you own jam file.

Prepare:

- Create a jam file with a title “A Good DigiCoach”.
- Make sure you have access to the instructional video on Vimeo.
- Jamboard can be accessed with a mobilephone, but it is easier on a computer/laptop or an iPad.
- If needed, make sure you have devices for the learners to use/borrow if they do not have their own.

20min Think and discuss:

Watch the instructional video of Jamboard (Vimeo) and discuss with the group:

- Have you used it before? Does it remind you of another app or platform that you have used? (slides, powerpoint,...?)
- What do you/young learners need to use the platform? (skills, devices, accounts etc)



Important!

Working together in one shared file:

- While collaborating in one shared Jam file, all the content is available for every group member. They can edit and change everything if they want.
- This means you have to respect other group members' work and agree on basic rules together.
- At least, agree on the following:
 - What can I add to the Jam?
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- Make plans before adding material to the Jam file. Everybody should have his/her own task and know what to do.

30min Prepare: sign up and get started

Practice together: How can you access a jam file created by someone else?

- Share access link to your (trainer) jam file "a Good DigiCoach" to the DigiCoaches
- Ask everybody to add a note/notes with words or pictures that describe a good Digital Coach
- Extra: Discuss the topic "a Good DigiCoach" together (this can also be done later during the course)

How can you create your own jam files?

- Sign in to their own google accounts
- Find Jamboard in the Google tools and open it
- Create a new jam file about yourself. Title the jam with your name.
- You will continue editing this file in the next lesson.

10min Reflect:

- Is Jamboard easy or difficult to use?
- What could young learners at school use Jamboard for?

Lesson 2 (60 minutes)

Goals:

Learning how to add different kinds of content to a Jam file

Prepare:

- Prepare a Jam file for the pictictionary game.
- Prepare an example Jam where you can show how to use the different features of the Jamboard (add pictures, add notes, write, draw...) The idea is, however, to also let the learners to explore and learn by trying out the features by themselves.

How Does it work?

30min

- Explore the tools that are available for editing the blank “white board”/“the jam”.
- Edit the jam file you created about yourself: add information/pictures you are willing to share with the group.
- Extra: Try different devices for submitting content. Are there differences between the devices?

15min

- **Work with your partner:** What was the best feature you found? Did you find a feature your partner didn't find or did not know how to use? Help each other to use the features if you can.

15min

Get creative! Play Pictionary with your group.

- Everybody joins the same jam and decide on a theme for the pictures.
- One person draws a picture and the rest of the group tries to guess the what it is.
- The jam can be projected to a white board or everybody can follow on their own screen.



Lesson 3 (60 minutes)

Prepare:

Make sure you have the means to connect learners' devices to the projector so that others can see their Jam files. Alternatively, you can ask learners to share their Jam with you and you can project your own screen to the whiteboard.

How does it work?

30min Role play with a pair:

- Practice giving instructions with a pair.
- One of you takes the role of a young learner who does not know how to use Jamboard.
- The other one takes the role of a DigiCoach and tries to explain how to use Jamboard.
- Switch roles

Be Creative!

30min

Choose one or more task to practice the use of Jamboard with the group

- **Jamboard as a mindmap - support for a presentation:**
 - Choose the topic of your presentation. For example, if the assignment is to do a presentation on an animal that lives in the area, choose one that you'd like to know more of. Create a cover page by adding the name of the animal and a picture of it.
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NOTE! These creative exercises can also be used for more practice or to engage participants who find Jamboard an interesting tool and want to further develop their skills. The lesson plans above are created for the minimum time frame. It is recommended to adapt these plans according to the needs of each individual participant and group.

