

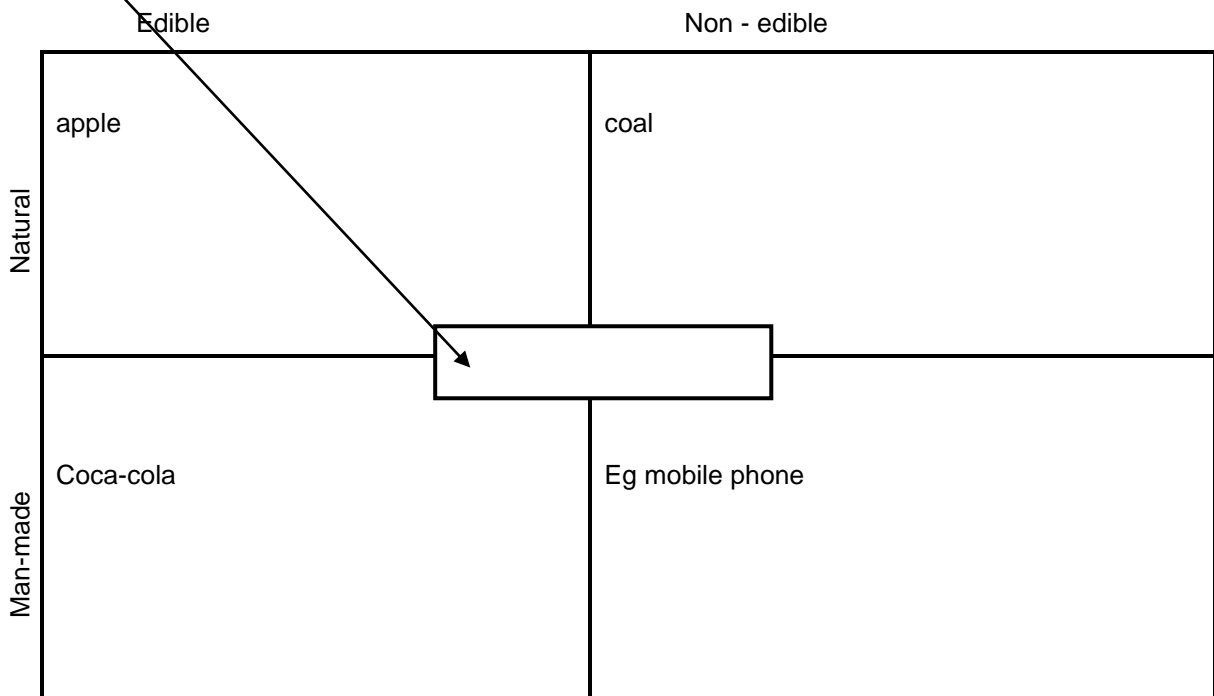
Logic Boxes

When brainstorming, themes and ideas are often developed consecutively in a simple and logical sequence as ideas follow one from the other. The results can be reasonable (ie the result of reasoning) but may not be imaginative, exciting or original. Mind maps also have a degree of logical progression. This technique throws the mind in the opposite direction demanding a new idea.

A logic box can be used to stimulate new and original ideas about a problem by forcing the mind to consider radically different alternatives. The box presents a simple grid with two sets of contrasting opposites such as 'edible – not edible', 'joyful – depressing', 'large – small', 'hard – soft' etc. The purpose of the brainstorm is given at the top and the grid is filled in allowing the opposites to direct and redirect thinking and ideas. This technique is useful for starting off ideas and proposals eg. design some earrings, create a new spaceship, design a home for your pet python or whatever.

As in all brainstorming activities ideas should be noted as they occur without pausing to consider their merits (this comes later). Strange, funny and original ideas should be encouraged and enjoyed. This element of imaginative playfulness is an important part of creative thinking in all spheres of activity and at all levels. Later there will be time to reflect on the merits and implications of what has been done. When using a logic box there is a tendency to move from box to box as ideas in one box dry up there is the opportunity for a fresh start in the opposite box.

Write focus here



Other sets of words that could be used are: hard v soft; rough v smooth; old v young; pretty v ugly; round v straight; wet v dry; shiny v dull; light v dark; sharp v blunt; happy v sad; underwater v above water etc. There are many, many more.