

LEARNING RESOURCE



Wire Words

Steel has been a popular sculpting material in the last 100 years due to its malleability, durability and relative affordability. It is ideally suited for large-scale work, and is available in flat sheets (known as plates), wire or in bars, rods, tubes, and pipes.

Although steel can be tricky to work with on a small-scale at home, aluminium is an excellent substitute and is pliable enough to bend and shape without specialist equipment. This resource shows you how to create expressive word sculptures using aluminium wire. By bending one continuous length of wire, you will spell out words to create intriguing three-dimensional line drawings. It is also possible to use paint, straws, tape or coloured threads to add colour and definition to your wire words.

What will I need for this project?

Pliable aluminium wire or floristry wire (2mm pliable aluminium wire was used for this project)

Pliers (needed to create sharp bends, finer detail or to join lengths of wire together)

Wire cutters

Paper and pencil

Straws or coloured tape (optional)

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Step one:

Gather together your materials.



Step three:

Start bending your wire to follow the line of your word. Try using one continuous length of wire. Use pliers to help you create sharp bends or to attach a new piece of wire.



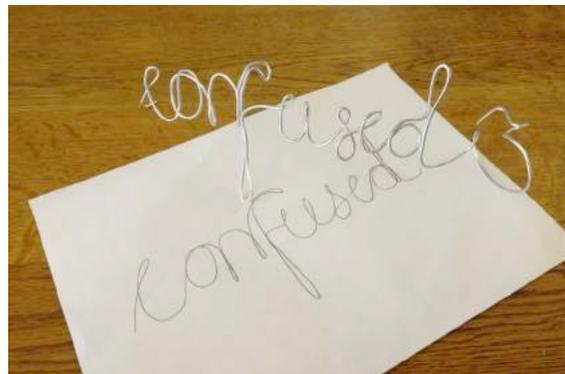
Step two:

Write down some descriptive words. These words could describe a state of mind, a feeling or an emotion. Write each word out on a larger scale, using a font or writing style that helps express each particular emotion or feeling. Make sure that your letters are joined up.



Step four:

Stand your sculpture up by carefully bending it, curving it, or manipulating the leftover wire to give it further support.



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How to develop your wire word sculptures

- Try threading paper straws or coloured straws onto your length of wire before bending the wire into place.
- Try shining a light on your word sculptures to create dramatic shadows. How does this help you to convey emotion?
- Could you join separate word sculptures up to create a poem, a sentence or an unusual conglomeration of words?
- You may want to consider using spray paint or wrapping coloured tape or thread around your wire words to add colour or texture.

