

English Club Games & Activities

Here are some great ideas for activities and games borrowed from www.englishclub.com. They will surely be very helpful for any teacher of English and brighten up any English language class.

Consonant or Vowel

Level: intermediate

Practises: listening, spelling

One member of the class leaves the room and is called back in after one or two minutes. She is informed that the teacher has told the other students something rather confidential about her. Her task is to discover what the teacher has revealed by asking yes/no questions such as: is it about my past? does it involve the police?

Unknown to the unfortunate student, all the others will answer yes or no to these questions according to a simple code: if the question ends with a consonant, they answer "no"; if the question ends with a vowel they answer "yes" (or vice versa). This leads to a certain amount of perplexity and eventual hilarity.

After a time, the teacher intervenes to reveal the truth to the student: that he has not told the other students anything at all. He observes how curious it is that they nevertheless always answer yes or no unanimously. The student's task now is to discover the code by continuing to ask questions about anything.

For example, the student might point to the white board and ask the following questions:

<i>Question:</i>	<i>Response:</i>
Is this white?	Yes, it is.
Is it black?	No, it isn't.
Is it blue?	Yes, it is.

This is good listening and spelling practice for the majority of the students and a real mind-bender for the student whose most intimate secrets have been so callously revealed.

Alternative Assessment

This activity could be used to test a vocabulary list instead of a traditional matching or blank answering test.

Level: intermediate

Have students write complete sentences using a pair of words from the list in each sentence. The sentences have to make sense and be grammatically correct, but open yourself to all possibilities when correcting, since you should look for correct use of the words, not sense *per se*.

Example vocabulary:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. chambers | 3. ruined |
| 2. speculate | 4. sequence |

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| 5. moles | 8. recurring |
| 6. skunk | 9. endorsement |
| 7. thin | 10. huge |

Example sentence: The Police speculated the time of the crime by looking at the clocks in the husband and wife's chambers.

Categories

A basic game but lots of fun for students and good workout for vocabulary.

Level: intermediate

The students write 6 or 7 different categories, for example Country, Adjective, Irregular Verb, Profession etc. The trainer then gives them a letter and the students have to fill the categories with words beginning with this letter.

Example B: Brazil, Big, Be, Baker etc.

If they all have the same word for each category: 5 points each; different words 10 points; and if only one person can get a word 20 points.

Controversial Statements

Here are some great controversial statements to get the conversation going. Use them in various ways. Give one or a few to students for pair/group discussion. Or casually toss one of these statements yourself into the conversation at an appropriate moment. Or organize a debate.

Level: intermediate

- A woman's place is in the home.
- Fare-dodging on a train or bus is ok if you can get away with it.
- Boys and girls should not have equal education.
- A foreign language cannot be taught. It must be learned.
- A country gets the government it deserves.
- All property should be owned by the state.
- Murderers should be executed.
- Soft drugs like marijuana should be legalized.
- Beauty is only a matter of taste.
- Riches are for spending.
- We are all basically selfish.
- Punishment never has any good effect.
- Those who can do, those who can't teach.
- You will be happier if you stay unmarried.
- People work better if they are paid more.
- Royalty and democracy are incompatible.