

Activity Type

Miming and Vocabulary Game: guessing film, song or book titles (group work)

Focus

Film, song or book titles

Aim

To review and practice previously taught vocabulary or film, song or book titles.

Preparation

Think of film, song or book titles for your students to act out, depending on the age and level of your students.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this classic miming game, students use actions to describe film, song or book titles.

Procedure

Divide the students into two teams.

A player from one team comes up to the front of the class.

Give the player a film, song or book title to act out. You can whisper the title or write it on a piece of paper and hand it to the player.

Choose someone from the other team to be the timekeeper and set a time limit of three minutes.

The player starts by indicating which category the title belongs to by using one of the following gestures:

Film title: Pretend to crank an old-fashioned film camera.

Song title: Pretend to sing.

Book title: Put the palms of the hands together and then open them like a book.

The player then indicates how many words are in the title by holding up a corresponding number of fingers.

Next, the player indicates which word they want to start miming by showing that number of fingers, e.g. the player holds up two fingers for the second word.

The player shows the number of syllables in the word by laying a corresponding number of fingers on their arm.

The player then starts miming the word.

When a teammate calls out the correct word, the player points at that student and nods their head to indicate 'yes'.

If the player wants to mime the whole title at once, they indicate this by sweeping their arms in a big circle.

If the player's team guesses the title within three minutes, they score a point.

It's then the other team's turn to play and so on. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

It's a good idea to practice all the gestures with the class before they play the game. Other gestures include:

Sounds like: Cup one hand behind your ear.

Past tense: Wave your hand over your shoulder toward your back.

Short word: Bring your thumb and index finger close together.