

Activity Type

Spelling activity, group work

Focus

Vocabulary revision

Aim

To spell words.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This entertaining ESL spelling game is useful for practicing the spelling of recently studied vocabulary.

Procedure

Arrange the class into teams of equal size.

Have the teams sit down in rows facing the board.

There are two actions that the students need to know before playing the game.

Tapping the shoulder means repeat the spelling.

Nodding the head means okay continue.

Show a different word with the same amount of letters to the student at the back of each row.

That student draws the word, letter by letter onto the back of the person in front of them.

For example, if the word was 'taxi', the student would draw the 'T'. If the student in front of them knows the letter, they nod their head. If they are unsure, they tap their shoulder so the student can rewrite the letter on their back. This continues until the word is complete. Then, the next student draws the word onto the back of the person in front of them.

When the word reaches the person at the front of the line, the student stands up and writes it on the board.

The first team to spell their word correctly scores a point.

The student at the front then moves to the back and everyone moves up one space.

The game then continues with a new word and so on.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

For higher-level students, you can have them write complete sentences.