

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, group work

Focus

Categories of words

Aim

To keep a balloon airborne while saying words from a category.

Preparation

A list of categories and a balloon.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

15 minutes

Introduction

In this energetic categories game, students try to keep a balloon airborne while saying words from a category.

Procedure

Divide the students into four teams.

Create a large space in the classroom.

Divide the space in two with a row of chairs. This acts as the volleyball net.

Explain that the students are going to play in a balloon volleyball tournament.

Invite two teams to play first.

The team members stand spread out on either side of the net.

Give one student the balloon.

You stand by the net and act as umpire.

Start the game by calling out a category you wish to revise, e.g. frequency adverbs.

Every time the balloon is hit, either to another player or over the net to the other team, the student hitting the balloon must say a word from the category.

If the balloon hits the floor, a word is not said, or a word is repeated, the opposing team scores a point.

Play for five minutes, changing the category each time a point is scored.

After five minutes, repeat the game with the other two teams.

The two teams with the most points then face off in the final round of the balloon volleyball tournament to decide the winner.