

Activity Type

Speaking activity

Focus

Categories of words

Aim

To say words from a category in a limited amount of time.

Preparation

A ball

Level

Any

Time

15 minutes

Introduction

Here is a challenging category game that can be adapted to any topic or level.

Procedure

Arrange six chairs in a circle.

Invite seven students to play first. Ask six students to sit on the chairs and one student to stand outside of the circle.

The student outside the circle chooses which player should have the ball and states what the person holding the ball has to name six of.

For example, if you have just finished teaching sports. The student might say 'Name six team sports'.

The player with the ball then passes it to the student sitting next to them and the ball is passed from student to student around the circle.

The player's task is to name the six things before the ball gets back to them.

If the player manages to do this, the student outside the circle chooses another player to name six things and the game is repeated.

If the player cannot name six things by the time the ball reaches them, they are out of the game. The student standing outside the circle then takes the vacant seat and a new student joins the game and starts by standing outside the circle.

Alternatively, you could play this game with a different number of students, depending on the size of the class. You could also have all the students play with the loser standing outside the circle.