

Activity Type

Vocabulary and spelling activity, group work

Focus

Vocabulary revision

Aim

To guess a word through logical deduction.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This ESL word game is based on the TV game show 'Mastermind'.

Procedure

Begin the game by choosing a secret word you want the students to revise, e.g. hospital. The length of the word depends on the level of your students. With higher-level students you can use long words. Four or five letter words are suitable for elementary students.

Draw one line on the board for each letter in the word, e.g. eight lines.

Divide the students into two teams.

One team goes first and tries to guess the word by choosing a word that has the same amount of letters, e.g. elephant.

If a letter from their word is in the secret word but in the wrong place, put a cross under the letter.

If a letter from their word is in the secret word and in the right place, put a tick under the letter.

The other team then uses the information to make another guess.

The first team to guess the secret word scores a point.

Repeat the process with a new secret word and so on.

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