

Activity Type

Writing activity, group work

Focus

Vocabulary

Aim

To write down as many words as possible that match certain criteria.

Preparation

None

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This ESL word game can be used to practice or review a variety of vocabulary.

Procedure

Divide the students into teams of three or four.

Tell the students that they have one minute to write down as many words as possible that match certain criteria.

Possible criteria:

- words beginning with certain prefixes, e.g. un-, tri-, trans-.
- words beginning with certain letters, e.g. fl-, wh-, co-.
- words containing double letters, e.g. oo, aa, ee.
- words ending with certain suffixes, e.g. -ity, -ment, -ness.
- words beginning and ending with the same letter, e.g. p...p, b...b, t...t.
- words beginning with one letter and ending with the next, e.g. a...b, b...c, c...d.
- words that rhyme with each other, e.g. war, bore, for, score, snore.
- words containing a certain number of syllables, e.g. 3, 4, 5.

Teams score one point for each word they write.

Inflections are not allowed, i.e. changing a word to express different grammatical categories, e.g. hit, hits, hitting.

Play several rounds using a different criterion each time.

After each round, have the teams swap papers for marking.

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