

Activity Type

Writing and spelling activity, group work

Focus

Vocabulary

Aim

To make as many words as you can with nine letters shown in a square.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

Here is a fun ESL word game to play with your students.

Procedure

Draw a three-by-three grid on the board.

In the squares, write a nine-letter word in a random order. The centre square must contain a vowel.

You can use any nine-letter word for this game. Ideally, it should contain a few different vowels, e.g. scrambled, Christmas, blueberry, etc.

Examples: scrambled

R	M	C
B	A	L
S	E	D

The aim of the game is for the teams to make as many words as they can with the letters in the square.

Every word the teams write must contain the centre letter.

Students cannot use any letters twice unless they are in the nine-letter word.

Teams also get a bonus score if they make a word using all nine letters.

Divide the students into teams of three or four.

Set a time limit of two minutes.

The teams write as many words as they can from the square.

When the time is up, have the teams swap papers for marking.

Teams score one point for each letter in a correctly spelt word. For example, a three-letter word is worth three points, a four-letter word is worth four points and so on. If a team gets the nine-letter word, they score 18 points.

Play several rounds using a different nine-letter word each time.

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