

## Activity Type

Speaking and Vocabulary Game: guided discussions (group work)

## Focus

Linking words and phrases

## Aim

To discuss various topics using specific linking words and phrases.

## Preparation

Make one set of topic cards and one set of linking word cards for each group of four and cut as indicated.

## Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

## Time

35 minutes

## Introduction

In this linking words game, students discuss various topics using specific linking words and phrases.

## Procedure

Divide the students into groups of four.

Give each group a set of topic cards and a set of linking word cards.

Ask the students to shuffle both sets of cards separately and place them face-down on the desk in two piles.

Each student takes a linking word card from the corresponding pile.

The first topic card is turned over for everyone to see, e.g. ambitions.

The students then have a conversation about the topic on the card for two minutes.

As the students talk, they try to naturally work a sentence into the conversation that uses the linking word or phrase in their hand.

For example, if a student had a linking word card that read *although*, the student might say 'I love to act. Although I want to be a famous actor, I will probably be an engineer.'

When a student successfully uses their linking word or phrase in the conversation, they score a point and take another linking word card from the pile and continue, trying to use the next linking word or phrase.

After a couple of minutes, the conversation ends and the students place all the linking word cards back in the pile and reshuffle them.

The process is then repeated with the next topic card.

The game continues until all the topic cards have been used.

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

This game can also be used as an icebreaker or get to know you game on the first day of class.

**Topic cards**

ambitions

family and friends

TV and films

food and drink

free time activities

holidays

jobs and work

sports

music

your childhood

accomplishments

languages

weather and climate

where you are from

likes and dislikes

**Linking word cards**

although

just like

as a result

since

so

such as

because

because of

despite

even if

for instance

however

but

also

though

as well as

in fact

instead of

before

besides

especially

on the other hand

so that

due to

unless

while

whereas