

Activity Type

Writing activity, group work

Focus

Vocabulary revision

Lexical sets

Aim

To write down words from a category, starting with each letter of the alphabet.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

Here is an excellent ESL brainstorming game for revising vocabulary and lexical sets.

Procedure

Write three numbered categories on the board corresponding to the vocabulary or lexical sets you wish to revise.

Examples:

1. clothes
2. drinks
3. verbs

Next to the categories, write the letters of the alphabet (A to Z) with a random small number next to each letter.

Example:

A - 2 B - 4 C - 1 D - 3

Next, divide the students into teams of three or four.

Give each team a piece of paper.

Tell the teams to write the letters of the alphabet on the paper.

When they have done that, set a time limit (e.g. five minutes) and call out a category from the board, e.g. clothes.

The teams then race to write down words from that category, starting with each letter of the alphabet.

When the time limit has been reached, have the teams swap papers for marking.

Teams take it in turns to read out the answers on their paper.

For each correct word, teams score the number assigned to that letter.

Tally up the score for each team and then start a new round.

The team with the highest score at the end of the game wins.