Activity Type
Reading, listening and writing activity, group work

Language Focus
Defining

Aim
To invent false definitions for words and guess true definitions

Preparation
Make one copy of the word cards for each group of five and cut as indicated. Also, prepare small slips of paper for each student.

Level
Intermediate and above

Time
25 minutes

Introduction
This ESL word game is based on a popular board game of the same name. In the game, students invent false definitions for words and score points by correctly guessing true definitions.

Procedure
Divide the students into groups of five.

Give each group a set of balderdash word cards. Ask the students to shuffle the cards and deal them out equally face down.

Also, give each student some small slips of paper to write definitions on.

Students take it in turns to be the leader.

The leader of the round chooses one of their word cards, reads the word aloud and spells it.

The other students then each invent a false definition for the word that could fool the other group members and write it on a slip of paper.

The leader copies the true definition onto a slip of paper, so that they cannot be seen reading from the word card.

Each student then hands their definition to the leader.

The leader mixes up all the definitions and reads each one aloud.

The other students then vote on which definition they think is correct and the leader reveals the answer.

Students score one point for each vote their false definition receives and two points for choosing the correct definition.

The leader scores three points if nobody chooses the correct definition.

The scores are added up and another student becomes the new leader and so on.

Play until all the words have been used or time is up.

The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.
## Balderdash word cards

- aulete: a person who plays the flute
- belocolus: a magic stone that makes a soldier invisible
- bettong: a small kangaroo
- boletus: a wild mushroom
- collutory: antiseptic mouthwash
- crwth: a 6-stringed violin
- dorking: a chicken with 5 toes
- exoduster: someone who leaves town in a hurry
- fard: to put on makeup
- forney: a ring worn on the fourth finger
- galligaskins: loose baggy trousers
- gravid: pregnant
- hippiatr: a horse doctor
- histrixite: a Tasmanian mineral containing copper and iron
- jargonelle: a pear which ripens early
- mantelet: a bullet-proof screen
- mawworm: a hypocrite
- noodlethatcher: someone who makes hats and wigs
- oxter: to walk along arm in arm
- ozostomia: bad breath
- pistareen: a Spanish coin worth 20 cents
- ramfeezled: exhausted, tired
- sclaff: to scrape the ground with a golf club before hitting the ball
- screeve: to draw pictures on a sidewalk for money
- shiggers: tight trousers worn by football players
- splate: a substance used in shoe making
- toison: the wool of a young sheep
- tranka: a long cylindrical box which jugglers balance with their feet
- wakip: an American Indian hut
- wallygowdy: a precious jewel or gem