

Activity Type

Writing and spelling activity, group work

Language Focus

Categories of words

Aim

To write words connected to a category.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

15 minutes

Introduction

This enjoyable category game helps students brainstorm their vocabulary knowledge for a given subject or topic.

Procedure

Draw three or four columns on the board.

Divide the students into a corresponding number of teams.

Have each team line up in front of a column and give each team a marker or chalk for writing.

Write a category on the board and set a target number of 10 to 20 words, depending on the level of the class.

The teams' task is to write the target number of words in their column, making sure the words are correctly spelt and that they relate to the category. The first team to do this wins the round.

The first student in each team runs to the board, writes a word from the category in the column, runs back, gives the marker or chalk to the next student and goes to the back of the line.

Then, the second student runs to the board and so on.

The teams should check the words being written by their team members. If they spot a mistake, the student who wrote the word should go back and correct it.

When the target number of words has been reached by one team, stop the game and check the words and spelling for that team.

If the words are appropriate and spelt correctly, the team scores one point.

If not, that team is out of the game and the other teams continue to race until one of them completes the task successfully.

Play several rounds using a different category each time.

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