

Activity Type

Writing and spelling activity, group work

Focus

Vocabulary and lexical sets

Aim

To brainstorm categories of words.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This ESL game is ideal for brainstorming vocabulary or revising categories of words.

Procedure

Draw two to four columns on the board and divide the students into a corresponding number of teams.

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

Set a time limit (e.g. five minutes) and then call out a category for the teams to brainstorm.

The teams' task is to write all the words they can think of belonging to that category in the column.

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.

When the time limit has been reached, stop the game and check the words and spelling for each team.

For each correctly spelt word belonging to the category, teams score one point.

Play several rounds using a different category each time.

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

To stop teams copying each other, you can cross out all the words that are duplicated across the teams.