

Activity Type

Writing and spelling activity, group work

Language Focus

Vocabulary

Aim

To come up with the longest word possible using nine letters

Preparation

Countdown music

Level

Any

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

This engaging ESL word game has been adapted from a famous TV game show.

Procedure

Divide the class into four teams and assign each team with a number.

The first team chooses nine letters by saying either 'vowel' or 'consonant'.

Each time the team says vowel or consonant, write a random letter on the board, corresponding to the team's choice. Alternatively, you could have a set of letter cards that you stick on the board.

When nine letters have been chosen, set a time limit of one or two minutes (depending on the students' level) to come up with the longest word possible using the nine letters. Each letter can only be used once.

While the teams are writing, play some music that lasts as long as the time limit. There is a countdown TV theme song. I use a combination of the theme song and Public Enemies - Final Countdown of the Collision.

When the time limit has been reached, ask each team how many letters are in their word.

The team with the longest word gives their answer.

If the word has the correct letters and spelling, that team scores the same amount of points as there are letters in the word, e.g. a six-letter word scores six points. If the team has made a mistake, go to the next team with the most letters in their word.

The second team then chooses vowels and consonants and so on, until every team has had a chance to choose letters.

The team with the most points at the end of the game is the winner.

After each round, you can also show the students an anagram. The first team to correctly guess the word scores extra points. The anagrams can be from vocabulary the students have studied in previous lessons.