

Activity Type

Vocabulary and Speaking Game: describing, guessing (pair work)

Focus

Describing

Vocabulary revision

Aim

To describe words and to guess words from another student's descriptions.

Preparation

None

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This ESL describing game can be used to help students revise categories of words or vocabulary you have been teaching in class.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (Student A and B).

Give each pair a pen and a piece of paper.

Have all Student As sit facing away from the board.

Write five to ten words on the board that you want the students to practice or revise.

For example, if you wanted to revise sports, you might write tennis, football, cycling, badminton, volleyball, etc.

Student B then describes the first word on the board to Student A without saying the word.

For example, if the word was 'tennis', Student B might say 'People play this sport on a court. They use a racket and ball to play. This sport is usually played between two people'.

Student A listens and then writes down the word they think it is and shows it to Student B.

Student A is not allowed to speak during the game.

If the word is correct, Student B moves on to describe the second word on the board and so on.

If it's wrong, Student B continues describing the word until their partner is able to guess the word.

The first pair of students to finish wins the round and scores a point.

Students then swap roles, and a new set of words is written on the board and so on.

The pair with the most points at the end of the game wins.