

### Activity Type

Spelling activity, group work

### Language Focus

Vocabulary

### Aim

To change one word into another by changing one letter at a time

### Preparation

None

### Level

Elementary and above

### Time

20 minutes

### Introduction

This intriguing word game was invented by Lewis Carroll, who wrote 'Alice in Wonderland'.

### Procedure

Tell the students that they are going to play a game where they change one word into another by changing one letter at a time.

Explain that letters cannot be moved, merely substituted. Every time a letter is changed, it must result in an English word.

Give the following 'wet to dry' example to the class to help them understand: wet - met - mat - may - day - dry.

Next, divide the students into teams of three or four. Start the students off with one of the easier examples. Write the first and last word on the board.

Working in their teams, the students try to change one word into the other. Allow the teams to use dictionaries to help them with possible words.

When the teams have finished, ask them for their answers.

Teams score points according to the number of steps taken to turn one word into the other, e.g. wet - met - mat - may - day - dry = six points.

Play several rounds. The team with the 'lowest' score at the end of the game wins.

Examples:

cat - cot - dot - dog

shoe - shot - soot - boot

cow - cot - pot - pit - pig

few - new - net - not - lot

give - live - like - lake - take

boy - toy - ton - ten - men - man

love - live - give - gave - gate - hate

road - read - lead - lend - land - lane

hard - card - cord - ford - food - foot - soot - soft

hand - band - bend - bead - beat - boat - boot - foot

cold - sold - sole - mole - male - mare - ware - warm

meat - beat - bent - went - want - cant - cane - cone - bone

wind - wine - line - lane - land- sand - said - paid - pain - rain

wolf - golf - gold - bold - bolt- boat - boar - bear - beer - deer

pear - bear - beat - bent - bend - bind - wind - wine - line - lime

wood - wool - pool - poor - pour - four - foul - soul - soil - sail - nail

rich - rice - ripe - pipe - pine - dine - done - bone - bore - born -

morn - moon - moor - poor