

### Activity Type

Reading and spelling activity, group work

### Language Focus

Vocabulary revision

### Aim

To guess a word through logical deduction

### Preparation

None

### Level

Elementary and above

### Time

20 minutes

### Introduction

This ESL word game is based on the TV game show 'Mastermind'.

### Procedure

Begin the game by choosing a secret word you want the students to revise, e.g. hospital. The length of the word depends on the level of your students. With higher-level students you can use long words. Four or five letter words are suitable for elementary students.

Draw one line on the board for each letter in the word, e.g. eight lines.

Divide the students into two teams.

One team goes first and tries to guess the word by choosing a word that has the same amount of letters, e.g. elephant.

If a letter from their word is in the secret word but in the wrong place, put a cross under the letter.

If a letter from their word is in the secret word and in the right place, put a tick under the letter.

The other team then uses the information to make another guess.

The game continues until one team guesses the secret word.

The team to do this scores a point. Repeat the process with a new secret word and so on.

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