

Activity Type

Listening activity

Language Focus

Vocabulary

Aim

To listen carefully for keywords

Preparation

None

Level

Young learners

Time

15 minutes

Introduction

This engaging ESL listening game works really well with young learners. You play this game with three students at a time.

Procedure

Choose three students to play first. Clear a runway to the far wall of the classroom.

Outstretch your arm.

Each student then grabs one of your fingers.

Assign the students with a special keyword, e.g. take.

Tell the students that if they hear that word, they should let go of your finger and run to the wall.

Start saying words, some words should have a similar sound to the keyword, e.g. took, tickle, bake, cake, etc.

If a student lets go, when you haven't said the keyword, e.g. if the keyword is 'take' and the student runs when you say 'cake', they are out.

If you say the keyword, the students let go of your finger and run to the far wall.

Your task is to tag out the students before they get to the wall. If you do this, they are out.

Repeat until only one student is left. Then, start a new round with three more students.

When everyone has had a go, play again with the winners of each round until you find the ultimate champion.