The Buzzer Game

Activity Type

Speaking Game: answering questions (pair work)

Focus

Answering questions

Aim

To give answers to questions.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

10 minutes

Introduction

This amusing ESL game can be played when students have to answer questions in class.

Procedure

Set up the classroom in a horseshoe-shaped seating arrangement with enough seats for half the class.

Divide the students into teams of two.

One student sits on the chair, and the other student stands behind their partner.

Explain that the seated students are 'buzzers' and the standing students are 'contestants'.

Contestants place their hands on the shoulders of their respective buzzer, ready to press down when they know the answer to a question.

Go around checking every team's buzzer is working correctly.

This can be quite entertaining as the students acting as buzzers can make some very interesting buzzer sounds.

Next, read a question to the class.

The first contestant to sound their buzzer can answer the question.

If the contestant gives the correct answer, they score one point.

If not, they are out of that round and other contestants can sound their buzzers and try to answer.

The only one who can answer a question is the contestant.

If a buzzer gets over-excited and buzzes first because they know the answer, the contestant has to answer the question and be rewarded or penalised accordingly.

Have the contestants and buzzers swap roles after a few rounds as some buzzers may run out of voice.

Continue playing until all the questions have been answered correctly.

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

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