

Activity Type

Reading, matching and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Phrasal verbs

Aim

To play a pelmanism game where you match verbs with prepositions to make phrasal verbs and then try to use each phrasal verb in a sentence.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated. Keep the verb cards and preposition cards separate.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This phrasal verbs pelmanism game helps elementary students to practice some phrasal verbs commonly used in class.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs. Give each pair a set of verb cards and a set of preposition cards. Students will also need a pen and paper for keeping score.

Ask the students to shuffle each set of cards separately and spread them out face down on the table in two sets.

Students then take it in turns to turn over one verb card. The student reads the verb and definition on the card (e.g. turn - to switch a machine or light off) and then tries to find a matching preposition by turning over one preposition card.

If the preposition matches with the verb to make the phrasal verb described in the definition (i.e. off), the student scores a point and keeps the two cards. If students are unsure, they can ask you to adjudicate.

The student then tries to score an extra point by using the phrasal verb in a sentence to demonstrate they understand the meaning, e.g. 'The teacher always tells me to turn off my mobile phone.'

If the student is able to make a suitable sentence, they score the extra point and have another turn.

If the two cards don't match, the student turns them back over, keeping them in the same place.

The students continue taking it in turns to play until all the cards have been matched. The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Finally, go through the correct answers with the class and review the meaning of each phrasal verb.

Answers: look up, pick up, talk about, log in, put back, look for, slow down, turn off, hurry up, hand in, cross out, come in, speak up, sit down, find out, write down.

As an extension, put the students in two teams. Have one player from each team sit at the front of the class, facing away from the board. Write a phrasal verb on the board. The two teams then race to define the phrasal verb to their player without using the words on the board. The first player to say the phrasal verb scores a point for their team. Then, two new players sit at the front of the class and so on.

Classroom Phrasal Verbs Game

look

to try to find a piece of information in a book or online

pick

to lift something with your hands

talk

to discuss something

log

to sign in to a website/computer

put

to return something to its usual place

look

to try to find something

slow

to do something slower

turn

to switch a machine or light off

hurry

to do something quicker

hand

to submit

cross

to erase

come

to enter

speak

to speak louder

sit

to take a seat

find

to get information

write

to record on paper

up

up

about

in

back

for

down

off

up

in

out

in

up

down

out

down