

Activity Type

Vocabulary and Speaking Game: matching, forming sentences, freer practice (group work)

Focus

Compound nouns

Aim

To combine words together to form compound nouns and use them in sentences.

Preparation

Make one copy of the dominoes for each group of three and cut as indicated.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this compound nouns game, students combine words together to form compound nouns and use them in sentences.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three. Give each group a set of dominoes. Students will also need a pen and paper for keeping score.

Ask the students to shuffle the dominoes and deal out five each, leaving the rest in a pile face-down. Tell the groups to pick up the top domino from the pile and place it face-up on the table.

The first player puts down one of their dominoes on either side of the domino on the table, making sure that the words combine to form a compound noun.

If the player forms a compound noun successfully, they score a point. For an extra point, the player then uses the compound noun in a sentence.

The other players then take it in turns to match their dominoes in the same way by putting them down at either end of the domino chain and making a suitable sentence when a compound noun is formed.

If a player cannot put down one of their dominoes, they take one from the top of the pile and put it down if they can. If there are no dominoes left in the pile, play passes to the next student.

If another player thinks a compound noun or sentence is incorrect, they can challenge the player. If the students cannot agree, they ask you for help. If a compound noun is incorrect, the player must take back the domino and play passes to the next student.

When a player has gotten rid of all their dominoes, the game ends. The students then add up their scores. The player with the most points wins the game.

Afterwards, check answers together as a class and elicit the compound nouns, pointing out how some are two words merged into one, some are two separate words, and some are hyphenated words.

Merged: haircut, toothbrush, football, blackboard, sunrise, bedroom, earring, underground, rainfall, lookout, girlfriend, seafood, housekeeper, skydiving, , swimsuit, bedtime.

Two separate words: bus stop, full moon, swimming pool, washing machine, dry cleaning, driving license.

Hyphenated: check-in, give-away

Compound Noun Dominoes



time	bus	stop	full	moon	swimming
pool	hair	cut	tooth	brush	foot
ball	black	board	sun	rise	bed
room	ear	ring	under	ground	washing
machine	dry	cleaning	rain	fall	look
out	girl	friend	check	in	sea
food	house	keeper	sky	diving	give
away	swim	suit	driving	license	bed