

Activity Type

Speaking activity,
pairwork

Language Focus

'Wh' questions

Aim

To elicit words by asking
questions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
worksheet for each pair
of students and cut as
indicated.

Level

Low intermediate

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

Here is a fun worksheet activity that helps students practice asking questions with a variety of question words.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by asking a student to come to the front of the class and sit with his/her back to the board.

Explain that you are going to write a word on the board and the students are going to ask questions to help the student guess the word.

Write a random word on the board and have the students call out questions to elicit the word. Remind the students that they can only ask questions. They cannot mime, give synonyms, etc.

Play the game a few times, changing the word each time so the students practice using different question words, e.g. an object, a place, a time expression, a famous person, a distance, a job, etc.

Tell the students that they are going to play a similar game with a partner.

Explain that they are going to work with a partner as a team and that they have five minutes to ask questions to elicit as many words on their worksheet as possible.

Divide the students into pairs (A and B) and distribute the worksheets. Tell the students not to show their partner the worksheet.

Give the students time to go through the words on their sheet and think of some possible questions.

When everyone is ready, give the students a five-minute time limit and let them begin the activity.

Student A asks questions to their partner to elicit as many words from the box on their worksheet as possible.

When Student B says a word from the worksheet, Student A puts a tick next to the word. If Student B cannot guess the word after a few questions, Student A puts a cross.

After five minutes, the students stop and swap roles.

The process is then repeated with Student B asking the questions.

When everyone has finished, pairs add up their points. The pair with the highest combined score wins the game.

As an extension, pairs can play against each other. In pairs, students write a new set of words, according to criteria set by you. Students then follow the same procedure as above.

Student A

A. Ask Student B questions to help him/her guess the words in the box, e.g. 'What colour is the sky?' (blue)

When Student B says the correct word, put a tick next to the word. If Student B cannot guess the word after a few questions, put a cross. You have five minutes to ask your questions.

1. blue	2. eighteen	3. sushi	4. uncle
5. button	6. textbook	7. salt	8. German
9. winter	10. espresso	11. park	12. pounds
13. doctor	14. school	15. spoon	16. Beyonce
17. car	18. queen	19. London	20. July
21. midnight	22. fishing	23. ear	24. wedding
25. square	26. half	27. mountain	28. waitress

B. Now, answer Student B's questions.



Student B

A. Answer Student A's questions.

1. key	2. cinema	3. Australia	4. jacket
5. Thai	6. spaghetti	7. Leonardo DiCaprio	8. midday
9. football	10. summer	11. English	12. wife
13. teacher	14. dollars	15. kilometer	16. telephone
17. tea	18. Eiffel Tower	19. red	20. December
21. bus	22. round	23. hair	24. quarter
25. designer	26. lake	27. morning	28. planet

B. Now, ask Student A questions to help him/her guess the words in the box, e.g. 'What do you use to open a locked door?' (key)

When Student A says the correct word, put a tick next to the word. If Student A cannot guess the word after a few questions, put a cross. You have five minutes to ask your questions.