

Activity Type

Vocabulary Game: bingo, matching (group work)

Focus

Metaphors

Aim

To practice a range of common English metaphors.

Preparation

Make one copy of the bingo cards for each group of seven and cut as indicated.

Also, make one copy of the caller's sheet for each group.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this metaphors game, students play bingo by matching metaphors with their meanings.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of seven or fewer.

Give one student in each group a copy of the caller's sheet and the other students a bingo card each.

Ask the students to use pencils, so the cards and caller's sheet can be reused each round.

The bingo caller reads a sentence explaining the meaning of a metaphor at random from the caller's sheet, e.g. 'He is very kind and generous.'

Remind callers to read only the explanation and not the metaphor in brackets.

The caller then puts a tick beside the sentence to show it has been read out.

The players listen and look at the metaphors written on their bingo cards to see if they have one that matches the sentence, e.g. 'He has a heart of gold.' If they do, they cross it off.

The game continues until a player has crossed off four metaphors in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

When this happens, the player shouts 'Bingo!' and reads the metaphors they crossed off.

If the metaphors match the sentences that were ticked on the caller's sheet, the student wins the round.

Players then continue to see who can cross off all 16 metaphors first.

Groups play several rounds, with students taking turns being the bingo caller and players using a different bingo card each time.

Bingo Card A

A blanket of snow	A roller-coaster of emotions	Her eyes were pools of deep blue	She has a photographic memory
A ray of hope	She has a heart of stone	Time is a thief	A sea of faces
His words were a knife to her heart	The news was a hammer blow	Her ideas are a breath of fresh air	The world is a stage
The news was music to his ears	His mind is a computer	He's a night owl	He is a shining star in his field


Bingo Card B

He's a night owl	Time is a thief	His words were a knife to her heart	He is a shining star in his field
She has a heart of stone	Laughter is the best medicine	The heart of the matter	Her temper is a volcano
A sea of faces	The news was music to his ears	Her ideas are a breath of fresh air	The news was a hammer blow
The world is a stage	Life is a roller-coaster	She has a bubbly personality	A blanket of snow


Bingo Card C

He is a wolf in sheep's clothing	A blanket of snow	A web of lies	Life is a roller-coaster
He is a shining star in his field	His mind is a computer	A roller-coaster of emotions	The city is a concrete jungle
A sea of faces	The argument was a slippery slope	Her temper is a volcano	Her ideas are a breath of fresh air
Time is a thief	A broken heart	Her eyes were pools of deep blue	She has a heart of stone

Bingo Card D

The news was music to his ears	The world is a stage	His words were a knife to her heart	He has a heart of gold
The argument was a slippery slope	He's a night owl	A ray of hope	The classroom was a zoo
A sea of faces	A roller-coaster of emotions	The news was a hammer blow	His mind is a computer
He is a shining star in his field	A blanket of snow	Life is a roller-coaster	She has a photographic memory


Bingo Card E

His words were a knife to her heart	Laughter is the best medicine	A ray of hope	The city is a concrete jungle
The classroom was a zoo	A web of lies	The argument was a slippery slope	Time is a thief
The news was music to his ears	He is a wolf in sheep's clothing	The world is a stage	He has a heart of gold
He is a shining star in his field	A sea of faces	She has a heart of stone	Life is a roller-coaster


Bingo Card F

A web of lies	He is a shining star in his field	The classroom was a zoo	Her eyes were pools of deep blue
A ray of hope	He's a night owl	A broken heart	Her temper is a volcano
The city is a concrete jungle	The world is a stage	The heart of the matter	Life is a roller-coaster
His words were a knife to her heart	The news was a hammer blow	The news was music to his ears	She has a photographic memory

Caller's Sheet	
He is very kind and generous. (He has a heart of gold)	
She gets very angry easily and quickly. (Her temper is a volcano)	
Life has many ups and downs. (Life is a roller-coaster)	
He is very talented and successful. (He is a shining star in his field)	
People are like actors playing roles in life. (The world is a stage)	
Humour can make you feel better. (Laughter is the best medicine)	
Time passes quickly. (Time is a thief)	
Her eyes were a very intense blue colour. (Her eyes were pools of deep blue)	
He stays up late at night. (He's a night owl)	
She is very lively and cheerful. (She has a bubbly personality)	
A thick covering of snow. (A blanket of snow)	
The lesson was chaotic and noisy. (The classroom was a zoo)	
A large crowd of people. (A sea of faces)	
A complex series of untruths. (A web of lies)	
Intense emotional pain from sadness or grief. (A broken heart)	
Fast changing and strong feelings. (A roller-coaster of emotions)	
A small sign that something good might happen. (A ray of hope)	
Being told something that made him happy. (The news was music to his ears)	
He is a dangerous person pretending to be harmless. (He is a wolf in sheep's clothing)	
His words caused her great emotional pain. (His words were a knife to her heart)	
Full of tall buildings and noisy, unfriendly streets. (The city is a concrete jungle)	
She can remember things in great detail. (She has a photographic memory)	
She is cold, unfeeling, and cruel. (She has a heart of stone)	
The news was shocking and painful. (The news was a hammer blow)	
He is very intelligent and processes information quickly. (His mind is a computer)	
Her ideas are not only good but new and different. (Her ideas are a breath of fresh air)	
The main point or most important part. (The heart of the matter)	
The idea could lead to something bad. (The argument was a slippery slope)	