

Activity Type

Matching, listening, speaking and writing activity, group work

Focus

Suffixes

Abstract nouns

Aim

To match suffixes to words to make abstract nouns and then to make sentences and categorize the nouns.

Preparation

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

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging suffixes game, students match suffixes to words to make abstract nouns and then use the nouns to make 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 and writing.

Ask the students to shuffle the dominoes and deal out five each, leaving the rest in a pile face down. Tell the students 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, making sure that the suffix or word on their domino matches with the word or suffix on either side of the domino on the table to make an abstract noun. If the player forms an abstract noun successfully, they score a point. For an extra point, the player then uses the noun in a sentence.

The other players 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 an abstract 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 an abstract noun is incorrect, they can challenge the player. If the 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, the students can shuffle the dominoes and play again.

When the students have finished, write the following category headings on the board and have the students categorize the abstract nouns into their different types. Then, go through the answers and elicit other abstract nouns for each category.

Feelings/ Emotions	States/ Attributes	Ideas/ Concepts/Ideals	Movements/ Events
amazement boredom certainty indifference loneliness pleasure	bravery confidence contentment honesty loyalty nervousness	forgiveness friendship perseverance motivation tolerance wisdom	childhood education improvement marriage parenthood pilgrimage



-ance	bore	-dom	child	-hood	educat
-ion	content	-ment	marri	-age	pleas
-ure	indiffer	-ence	toler	-ance	nervous
-ness	motivat	-ion	certain	-ty	confid
-ence	brave	-ry	forgive	-ness	wis
-dom	improve	-ment	loneli	-ness	loyal
-ty	pilgrim	-age	honest	-y	parent
-hood	friend	-ship	amaze	-ment	persever