

Telephone Language Game

Activity Type

Speaking Game:
matching (group work)

Focus

Telephone phrases

Aim

To practice common
telephone phrases and
responses.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
cards for each group of
four and cut as indicated.
Keep the A and B cards
separate.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this telephone language game, students race to match common telephone phrases with appropriate responses.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of four.

Give each group a set of A and B cards.

Ask the students to shuffle both sets of cards separately and then deal them out evenly.

Each student should have four A cards and four B cards.

Tell the students to keep their cards secret at all times.

The aim of the game is to race to find the people in their group who have matching replies to common telephone phrases.

First, students look at their cards to see if they have any matching pairs.

If they do, students read them to the group for confirmation and place the cards face-down in front of them.

One student then begins the game by reading an 'A' card to one of the other students, e.g. 'Who's calling, please?'

That student then looks for a matching reply on their cards.

If the student has a matching response, they read it aloud to the group, e.g. 'My name is Elliot Lewis.'

If everyone agrees the cards go together, the group member gives the card to the student who wins the matching pair.

The two cards are then placed face-down on the table in front of the student.

If the student doesn't have a matching response, the first student waits until their next turn before saying the telephone phrase to another student.

The second student then reads an 'A' card to one of the other students, and so on.

The first student to get four matching pairs of cards wins the game.

Students can play several rounds to practice all the phrases.

The correct answers can be found on the uncut cards.

Telephone Language Game



A Who's calling, please?	A I'm sorry. Could you say that again?	A Can I speak to Clare Locker, please?	A When will she be back?
B My name is Elliot Lewis.	B Yes, I said could you ask her to phone me this afternoon.	B Yes, speaking.	B She will be back at 3 o'clock.
A I can't hear you. You're breaking up.	A Can you connect me with customer service, please?	A Could you ask Natasha to email me?	A How do you spell that?
B OK. I'll call you back on another line.	B Certainly. One moment, I'll put you through.	B Yes, I'll make sure she gets your message.	B It's F-E-R-D-I-N-A-N-D.
A I'm sorry. He's not here. Can I take a message?	A Can I have your phone number?	A Can you hold the line, please?	A Thanks for calling. Have a nice day.
B Yes, please. Could you ask him to call me back?	B Yes, it's 864-3216.	B Yes, I'll wait.	B Thanks. You too. Goodbye.
A Let me read that back to you. Your number is 565-4741.	A I'm sorry. He isn't here today.	A The line is busy. Would you like to hold?	A I phoned a moment ago, but I was cut off.
B Yes, that's right.	B I see. Could I leave a message?	B It's OK. I'll call back later.	B I do apologize.