

Activity Type

Speaking Game:
matching (group work)

Focus

Telephone language

Aim

To match common telephone expressions with appropriate 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

25 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging telephone language game, students match common telephone expressions 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 for students to say common telephone expressions and race to find the person in their group who has the appropriate reply to each one. The first student to collect four matching pairs of cards wins.

Have the students start by looking at the cards in their hand to see if they have any matching pairs. If they do, have the students read them to the group for confirmation and then place the matching cards face down in front of them.

One student 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 all the students in the group agree that the cards go together, the student gives the card to the first 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 has to wait until their next turn before saying the telephone expression to another student.

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

The game continues until one student gets four matching pairs of cards. That student wins the game.

Afterwards, go through the telephone expressions and matching responses with the class. The correct answers can be found on the uncut worksheet.

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 I have extension 155, 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.