

GAMES FOR THE CLASSROOM

Openers

(Appropriate for Beginners)

* 1. Toss the World:

What country are you from?

- Ask the question and toss the Globe to a student
- Student will locate home country and toss to a 2nd student

This can also be used to teach states of the USA

* 2. Toss the frog (or anything that can be tossed):

- Students form a circle
- Pick a unit of study for review (example: Housing or Furniture)
- Demonstrate by saying a vocabulary word (apartment)
- Toss the “frog” to a 2nd teacher – they will say a 2nd word (laundry)
- They will toss it to a student who will respond and toss the frog.

This is a good active way to review words at the end of a unit.

Games for anytime:

1.

TIC TAC TOE

teach	catch	buy
grow	hear	bring
fight	shoot	see

- Put the Tic Tac Toe on the board
- Break students into two teams (one “0”/ one “X”)
(maybe simpler to assign one team “blue chalk” and one “green”)
- Ask for a volunteer from one team to come up and write the **past tense** of one of the verbs

- The team which writes the correct past tense for three verbs in a row wins

This particular TIC TAC TOE may be too difficult for lower level classes
This would be good for low Intermediate

You could use simpler vocabulary, for example

jar	quart	gallon
loaf	bag	pint
bottle	bunch	pound

- Call out different supermarket items (peanut butter, milk, orange juice, cheese, ketchup, etc.)
- Have students write the item next to the quantity or container it comes in.

2.

BINGO

Said	Got	felt	fell	did
Fought	Caught	broke	won	thought
Ran	Shook	FREE	spoke	took
Paid	Left	hid	went	found
was	Blew	bought	cut	ate

- Give students a copy of the bingo cards (provide them with 5 variations)

- Give out some markers (candies work well)
- Call out the simple form of an irregular verb. (example: fall, shake, eat, go)
- Students will cover up the correct past tense. First person to cover 5 in a row shouts “BINGO”

The previous BINGO may be better suited for Intermediate to Advanced.

You can use vocabulary words from any lesson in place of these verbs.

3. Hangman



- Divide the students into two teams
- The students in each team will take turn guessing a vowel or consonant until they guess the whole word. If they guess incorrectly, put another part of the man’s body in the picture.
- The team that guesses the word correctly wins
- You can do this repeatedly with a number of vocabulary words

This is good for a vocabulary review.

*4. Flyswatter game

- Put numbers on a grid (make a transparency/overhead)
- call out a number
- one student from both teams will try to swat the correct number

This game can be adapted for any level. You could use pictures for the lowest levels. You could use vocabulary words from previous lessons. For Intermediate students, ask the student who hits the correct word to use it in a sentence. For Advanced students, use vocabulary words from the lesson (or previous lessons) and call out the definition, the students will have to hit the correct word for that definition.

*5. Noun Game

Make up a chart similar to the one below. Put it on the blackboard (or white board)

ABC	Category	
	Bedroom	
	Living room	
	Kitchen	

- Ask the students for a letter of the alphabet
- Place the letter randomly to the left of the Category column (see above)
- have students get into groups of 4
- the students will work together to find as many words as possible which begins with the letter and fits the category
- give 1 or 2 examples for the lower level classes
- give a time limit for this activity (~5 min.)
- Ask each group how many nouns they have – the group with the most nouns wins.

Use whatever categories fit with your lesson. This activity is good for Beginners through Intermediates

6. Writing Relay

- have the students get into 2 teams
- give each team a different color chalk
- call out a category (eg: the alphabet, months of the year, vegetables, fruit, etc.)
- the first members of each team will write an example of the category on the board
- they will pass the chalk to the next person who will write another word on the board
- The winners will be the team with the most number of words correctly written

This is a good game for reviewing after a unit. Beginner through Intermediate

7. Charades

- have students get into 2 teams
- have one student from 1 team come to the front of the room
- give them a card with a word on it. Use descriptive words that can be easily mimed.
- the student will mime the word – the team must guess the word
- give a time limit!!! (no more than 1 min.)

- if no one gets it, let the other team guess
- a student from the 2nd team will come up front
- repeat alternating teams

This can be used with any level. For advanced, try using idioms! If you use idioms, make sure that they are ones the students already know. Otherwise, they will be very frustrated.

8. Concentration

- for this game, students will work in groups of 4
- you will need a packet of matching cards for each group
matching items could be a picture and its word, words which are opposite, two different tenses of a verb (see example below)
- have the students place the cards upside down in random order
- the students will take turns picking up two cards. If they match, the students will remove the cards. If they do not match, the student must return the cards to the same place. Continue until all the cards are matched.

hot	cold	thin	fat
big	small	fast	slow
ugly	pretty	wet	dry
strong	weak	long	short
light	dark	sad	happy

hard	soft	sweet	sour
rough	smooth	loud	quiet
good	bad	tall	short

***9. Jeopardy**

- Put the following on the board (with any categories you prefer)

	Fruit	Sports	Animals	Body
10	_____	_____	_____	_____
20	_____	_____	_____	_____
30	_____	_____	_____	_____
40	_____	_____	_____	_____
50	_____	_____	_____	_____

- have questions prepared for each category with increasing difficulty (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 pts)
- put students into teams (up to 4 teams)
- have the students name their teams
- ask one team to pick a category and point value/ for beginners, demonstrate what you want them to do
- read the question
- the team will answer. If they are correct, place their team name on the board under the correct category and value

This is a great game for High Intermediate/Advanced students. It can be adapted to beginners by using very simple questions.

10. Pictionary

- similar to charades but the students must draw a picture to represent a word or phrase
- for Advanced, Idioms could be used

***11. Hot Seat (Intermediate or Advanced)**

- divide the class into 2 teams
- 1 person from one team sits on the “hot seat”
- the “hot seat” is placed in the front of the room facing away from the board
- the teacher will write words on the board (related to your lesson/vocabulary). There will be 1 word for each person on the team
- each team member will try to get the person in the “hot seat” to guess the correct word by using descriptions or definitions
- each team has 1 minute to get as many words as possible
- when the first team is finished, a person from the second team will move to the hot seat

12. Love triangles (Intermediate or Advanced)

- have students get into groups of 4
- draw a triangle on the board



- put three words around the triangle that are related
- have the students in each group discuss these items which is best? why?
- you can gather the information of all the groups and have a full class discussion

13. Associations: Divide the class into small groups. Give the students one paper per group. Write a word or expression from your vocabulary. Have the students work together to write down as many words as they can that relate to the vocabulary word.

**Ex. Plumber (repair, sink, water, faucet)
Bus (bus driver, change, seat, bus stop)**

14. Guess what I'm thinking of...

- **Tell the students to think of an item from the lesson.**
- **Have one student come to the front of the room. They will give a general idea of what they are thinking of**
- **The other students will ask yes or no question**

**Ex. Student: I'm thinking of something in the dining room
Class: Can you put things on it? (yes)
Do you use it to serve things? (no)
Is it made of wood? (yes)**