



FUN CLASSROOM GAMES THAT ACTUALLY HELP KIDS TO LEARN VOCABULARY

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Abstract

This article will outline cost-effective fun classroom games to remember vocabulary perfectly and practise them easily. Also, we will examine several classroom-tested games in order to turn vocabulary into a fun activity. These practical games help kids who are learning English as a second language to learn vocabulary with enjoyment. Additionally, we will discuss Why is vocabulary important? And Why should we use games to teach vocabulary?

Keywords: Pictionary, Charades, Hangman, Banana Race, Bingo, importance of vocabulary.

Introduction

Learning vocabulary is crucial, but it may be a boring process for kids. The aim of this article is to discuss fun classroom games to learn vocabulary effectively and enjoyably. Thus, we will suggest five fun games to learn vocabulary with interest and without boredom.

As we all know, while kids are learning foreign languages, they have to memorize vocabulary to understand the second language well. During regular vocabulary memorization, students may become bored with learning new words. So, it's essential to learn vocabulary with interesting activities.

Why is vocabulary important?

Vocabulary is really important not only for kids but also for all language learners. If both kids and students know foreign grammar and pronunciation but do not have enough vocabulary, understanding another language is challenging.

“Since comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading, the importance of vocabulary development cannot be overestimated. A robust vocabulary improves all areas of communication — listening, speaking, reading, and writing” (Miller, n.d.).



Furthermore, learners cannot speak fluently because of the lack of vocabulary.

*"Vocabulary is critical to a child's success for these reasons:

Vocabulary growth is directly related to school achievement.

The size of a child's vocabulary in kindergarten predicts the ability to learn to read.

Vocabulary helps children to think and learn about the world.

Expanding a child's knowledge of words provides unlimited access to new information"* (Miller, n.d.).

1. Pictionary

This game is played like this:

*"The team chooses one person to begin drawing; this position rotates with each word. The drawer chooses a card out of a deck of special Pictionary cards and tries to draw pictures which suggest the word printed on the card. The pictures cannot contain any numbers or letters, nor can the drawers use spoken clues about the subjects they are drawing. The teammates try to guess the word the drawing is intended to represent.

There are five types of squares on the board, and each Pictionary card has a list of five words printed on it. Players must then draw the word which corresponds to the square their playing piece landed on:

Subject

P = Person/Place/Animal

O = Object

A = Action

D = Difficult (words which are difficult to represent in a drawing)

AP = All Play

The AP category (and a random selection of check-marked words in other categories) are designated as 'All Play'. For 'All Play,' the teams compete against each other. Each team designates a player whose purpose will be to draw pictures. The team that guesses the word first gets to advance and take the next turn. If none of the teams guess the word, the turn passes to whichever team should have been next. One may not point or gesture to an object.

A one-minute timer, usually a sand timer, is used to compel players to rapidly complete their drawing and guessing"* (Pictionary, n.d.).

This fun classroom game is very useful for kids. They can both draw pictures and learn vocabulary in a relaxed way.



2. Charades

Game is played like this:

“Charades for Kids is especially designed for kids. The younger kids can have fun looking at the pictures while acting out subjects such as lions, dogs, and cats. The older kids act out things like eating” (Charades for Kids, n.d.).

I use this game for my pupils. It is quite engaging for kids, and they can learn vocabulary easily with the help of this game.

3. Hangman

Hangman is one of the most famous games for learning vocabulary. By playing this game, kids try to guess letters in order to make a word. This game brings both mental and educational benefits to children.

“Hangman is a guessing game for two or more players. One player thinks of a word, phrase, or sentence, and the other(s) try to guess it by suggesting letters or numbers within a certain number of guesses. Originally a paper-and-pencil game, there are now electronic versions” (Hangman, n.d.).

4. Banana Race

The name is interesting, just like the way it is played with kids.

Banana Race helps children learn vocabulary and also improves their ability to ask questions with correct grammar.

***Children just love this! It is basically a quiz game in which you ask children questions (target vocabulary) like: “What’s this?”, “What fruit is red and round?”, “How many chairs are there in the classroom?” Or the teacher simply draws items on the board or makes animal noises so that they guess.

You can work with individual students or split the class into small groups/teams if you have a large class. The teacher draws a race track on the board, and each team or student will be a BANANA waiting at the starting line. They will approach the goal line as they answer each question. Each right answer equals a step towards the goal line. The BANANA who arrives there first, WINS!*** (Vocabulary games and activities for ESL kids, n.d., para. 3).

5. Bingo

“Bingo is a game of chance using cards on which there is a grid of numbers, a row of which constitutes a win when the numbers have been chosen at random. Bingo is one of the most popular forms of low-priced gambling in the world” (Bingo, n.d.).



This game is also advantageous for teachers because it attracts children's attention. Kids are usually very keen on this kind of fun activity.

Conclusion

Playing games with kids in the classroom is crucial for teachers. They can teach vocabulary easily with the help of games, and children do not get bored. The more kids learn vocabulary through fun games, the more they are motivated to memorize new words.

During my lessons with kids at the learning centre, I have witnessed that classroom games are beneficial for children to learn vocabulary regularly without boredom. I advise all teachers to teach vocabulary with games in the classroom. I believe the games shared here will be helpful for both kids and teachers, not only during lessons but also at home.

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