

Classroom Games

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- * Games that are amusing and challenging are highly motivating.
- * Games allow meaningful use of the language in context.
- * During the game, the students are focused on the activity and end up absorbing the grammar subconsciously.
- * Games can be used to add excitement through competition or to create bonding between the students, and between the students and teacher.

These quotes are from:

www.teachingenglishgames.com/Articles/Teaching_Grammar_with_Games_in_the_ESL_Classroom

(S= student Ss = students T = teacher Ts= teachers RPS = Rock, Paper, Scissors, 1,2,3!)

1. Snakes and Ladders

- ** Use to practice any language - a “universal game board.”
- ** 3 colors of squares correspond to 3 types of questions/activities. For example: *If you land on **red**, the next person asks you a question from this pile. If you land on **blue**, pick up this card and make a sentence or do what it says. If you land on **black**, ask a group member a question from this pile.*
- ** Make the snakes and ladders moveable, so Ss can change them each game.

2. Go Fish

- * 3-person groups with 3 sets of 10-12 cards in each set (so 30-36 cards for each group). Cards with questions or pictures can work depending on your target language.
- ** Each person gets 5 cards to start with. RSP with the winner (A) starting. A can ask B or C about any card A has in her hand. For example: A: *Mari, have you ever (been to Kyoto)?* Mari (B) gives true answer: *Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.* Then B looks at her cards. If B has the same card, she gives it to A: *Here you are.* (If B has 2 of that card, she only gives one first.) If B doesn't have that card, B says, *Sorry!* A then picks a card from the facedown pile and it's B's turn. (If A got a card from B, A gets one more turn. A could ask B again for the same card if she thinks B may have had 2 or ask B for a different card or ask C.) Play continues in turn. **Strategy point:** If C has one of the *Kyoto* cards and remembers that A asked B for it, she could ask A for it on her turn. When a player gets 3 of the same card, she lays them down in front of her. If a player runs out of cards, she takes one from the pile. The game ends when all of the cards have been matched and are laid out in front of the players. The highest number of sets wins.
- ** The language can be any level. For example, with clock face cards, Ss could practice: *It's ___:___, I usually get up at ___:___, Do you eat lunch at ___:___?, Please buy me some bread at ___:___, Yesterday I was studying at ___:___, Next week I'm going to ___ at ___:___.* If a S isn't asked a question, she could reply to her classmate's statement with *Uh-huh. / Oh, really? / Me, too.* before saying *Here you are.* or *Sorry.*

3. Q and A Bingo (example on next page)

- ** It's easy to make your own bingo cards. Google “making bingo cards online free” and you'll find a lot of sites. (I've used www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/bingo/5/) Just input the questions you want on the cards and print them. It'll randomize them for you so that each card can have the questions in different spaces and Ss can't copy names off each other's board as easily.
- ** Tell Ss to write down the first name (in English!) in the square of whoever gives them a *Yes* answer. If they get a *No* answer, keep asking until they get a *Yes* answer or else go on to someone else. Then the person they're talking to asks a question. Also, they can only write one student's name one time. (This insures they'll talk to many people!) After they get single, double or triple bingo (depending on time), they should show you their card to be sure the names are in English and are not repeated. I sometimes give a sticker to the first 5-8 winners. You can play it again that day or another day with *No* answers.
- ** This gives the Ss fun practice in asking and answering questions at any difficulty level. They also need to listen to the answer to know if they can write that name or not in the square.

4. **Secret Sentence** (example below) -found on www.jhsenglipediaproject.com/Pages/JHS.aspx

** By saying randomly-put-together sentences and listening to one of the parts, Ss figure out what the “secret sentence” is.

** In a class of 30-40, this works best with 3-5 Ts giving answers, so ask 2-3 of your better Ss to play the “T station” part.

** Give each S a game board with about 5 sentences divided into 3-4 columns. (I usually laminate them, clip them to a board, and pass out white board pens and small cloths to use as erasers.) Go over the sentences to be sure Ss understand the meaning. Form teams of 2-3 Ss depending on how big your class is. RSP. Winner (A) goes to one of the “T stations” and says a sentence from her board as is or randomized – i.e. *My dad never has dinner at 12:00.* The T whispers one of the parts of that sentence that is not in the secret sentence, such as “never,” to A. (Be sure the Ss in line behind her are a little ways back and not listening.) A crosses out that part on her board and goes back to her team (who are sitting down!) to share that information so her teammates (B and C) can cross out that part, too. She sits down and B goes to one of the T stations to say a different sentence. They continue until a S says the secret sentence by chance or because she figured it out by eliminating the other choices. After ringing a bell to stop and announcing the winning team, ask them to read the secret sentence aloud. Ss erase their boards and play again. Rotate the teacher stations since Ss tend to go to the station closest to their desk, even though they can go to any of the stations during the game.

* This is a great game to motivate all Ss to speak and listen to English and a good chance for the T to hear individual Ss' pronunciation and intonation.

Q and A Bingo:

Have you ever been to a wedding?	Have you ever forgotten your umbrella?	Have you ever ridden a horse?	Have you ever met a famous person?	Have you ever been to a bazaar?
Have you ever been to a farm?	Have you ever stayed in the hospital?	Have you ever been to Tokyo Disneyland?	Have you ever made your lunch?	Have you ever watched a movie in English?
Have you ever held a baby?	Have you ever eaten mango ice cream?	Have you ever taken the wrong bus?	Have you ever cooked dinner?	Have you ever changed trains?
Have you ever slept in class?	Have you ever been on an airplane?	Have you ever watched ice hockey?	Have you ever lost your cell phone?	Have you ever been to a rock concert?
Have you ever done kendo?	Have you ever given your father a gift?	Have you ever slept in a tent?	Have you ever sung a karaoke song in English?	Have you ever borrowed a friend's CD?

Secret Sentence:

My mother	always	gets up	at 6:30.
My dad	usually	eats breakfast	at 7:45.
Ms. Smith	often	has dinner	at 8:15.
Karen	sometimes	takes a bath	at 9:05.
Mr. Jones	never	goes to bed	at 12:00.

