

6C Verb and noun phrases – Words against the clock!

Aim

to review modified word forms (including prefixes and suffixes)

Activity type

a speaking activity in which students describe and guess words

Classroom dynamics

groups of four divided into pairs

Time taken

20 minutes

Preparation

You will need one copy of the activity sheet per group of four, cut up into four columns.

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into groups of four, and then split each group into pairs.
- 2 Ask two volunteers to come to the front of the class, Student A with their back to the board and Student B facing it. Write the following on the board:
athlete
ADJECTIVE
(*athletic*)
- 3 Tell Student B that they have 30 seconds to explain the first word to Student A, using neither the word itself, nor any other form of the word. Once Student A has guessed the word, tell them they must give the adjective form. They must then make a sentence using this adjective. If this is done correctly and within the time limit, explain that they win a point for their pair.
- 4 Hand out a set of four cut-outs to each group, being sure to tell students not to show their cut-out to anyone else.
- 5 Each pair then takes turns trying to explain the base word to their partner without using the word itself, as in the example. The opposing team can look at the card before they begin. Once their partner knows the word, they must convert it to the word form given in capitals in the box and make a sentence. They are timed by the other pair, who must also listen to ensure that the base word is not used in the description. Students win a point every time they are able to complete the task correctly. If they are unable to do so, they lose that point. Circulate, making a note of any recurring errors to cover after the activity.
- 6 Once both pairs have completed their columns, the pair with the highest score in the group is the winner. Conduct whole-class feedback using your notes.

Adaptation and extension

- When students have finished the activity, challenge them to swap cut-outs with their opponents. Tell them that they will win a bonus point for every additional word they can think of that is formed from the five root words on their opponents' sheet. It may be advisable to add a rule that all incorrect words guessed will result in losing a point.
- For weaker groups, the 30 second limit to complete the task can be extended to a minute per word.
- In classes that cannot be split equally into groups of four, three students can act as a pair, sharing one cut-out.

FORMULA C1
ADVANCED

Grammar

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Student A	Student B	Student C	Student D
complain NOUN (complaint)	annoy NOUN (annoyance)	relate ADJECTIVE (relatable)	prevent NOUN (prevention)
respect ADJECTIVE (respectful)	accident ADVERB (accidentally)	assign NOUN (assignment)	pure VERB (purify)
sure VERB (ensure/assure/insure)	store NOUN (storage)	force VERB (enforce)	organisation VERB (organise)
frustration ADJECTIVE (frustrating)	minimal VERB (minimise)	excel NOUN (excellence)	science ADVERB (scientifically)
value ADJECTIVE (valuable)	dramatic ADVERB (dramatically)	melody ADJECTIVE (melodic)	long VERB (lengthen)

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24