

2B Prefix hot potato

Aim

to review negative prefixes

Activity type

a group speaking game

Classroom dynamics

groups of four

Time taken

15 minutes

Preparation

You will need one copy of the activity sheet for each group, cut into four wordlists.

Procedure

- 1 Divide the class into groups of four and give each group a set of four wordlists, one for each student.
- 2 Tell students that they must first look at their own wordlists and write down the negative prefix for each word. They must not change the original word form. Point out that in some instances a word on the list does not have a negative prefix form. Students should indicate these with a dash. Be sure to circulate at this stage and ensure students are writing the correct prefixes.
- 3 Once completed, tell students they are going to play a fast-paced speaking game in their groups. Explain that each student begins with five points. Student A must choose a word from their wordlist, say it to the group, and then make a sentence with it. Student B then has 30 seconds to make a sentence using the keyword with the negative prefix added. For example:
A: 'Decisive'. A good leader must always be decisive.
B: I have always been an indecisive person.
- 4 If Student B is able to make a correct sentence, they then choose a word from their own list to make a new sentence, which will then pass to Student C to add the negative prefix and make a sentence. This process is repeated until a student makes an error with a prefix, or tries to make a sentence with a word which does not take a prefix, whereupon they lose a point and have to start the next round.
- 5 Play continues as time allows, with students repeating their words in order to get extra practice. Alternatively, the game can end when a student has used up all of their words.

Adaptation and extension

- If the class cannot be split evenly into groups of four, the activity can also be completed in groups of three.
- In weaker classes, you may wish to allow the use of dictionaries in step 2 of the activity. You can also remove the time limit element for each word, although the activity will likely last longer.
- Students can be encouraged to add their own words to their wordlists in order to challenge both them and their fellow students with new language.

Answer key

Student A: discomfort; indecent; unlearn; dislike; irrational; insignificant; antisocial/unsocial/asocial

Student B: inaction; uncomfortable; illogical; immoral; unreal; irregular; –

Student C: inability; inaccurate; underestimate; misleading; –; imperfect; irresistible

Student D: incompetent; undoubted; irreversible; misplace; improbable; insane; –

FORMULA C1 ADVANCED		Vocabulary	
2B Prefix hot potato			
<p>Student A</p> <p>comfort _____</p> <p>decent _____</p> <p>learn _____</p> <p>like _____</p> <p>rational _____</p> <p>significant _____</p> <p>social _____</p>	<p>Student B</p> <p>action _____</p> <p>comfortable _____</p> <p>logical _____</p> <p>moral _____</p> <p>real _____</p> <p>regular _____</p> <p>tired _____</p>		
<p>Student C</p> <p>ability _____</p> <p>accurate _____</p> <p>estimate _____</p> <p>leading _____</p> <p>loud _____</p> <p>perfect _____</p> <p>resistible _____</p>	<p>Student D</p> <p>competent _____</p> <p>doubted _____</p> <p>reversible _____</p> <p>place _____</p> <p>probable _____</p> <p>sane _____</p> <p>think _____</p>		

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