

Activity Type

Vocabulary Game: word association (group work)

Focus

Vocabulary revision

Aim

To practice vocabulary skills through word associations and comparative forms.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This word association game helps students practice vocabulary relationships including comparatives, collocations, and word patterns in a team-based competition.

Procedure

Divide the students into teams of three or four.

Give each team a pen and paper for writing.

Start the game by writing an example noun on the board, e.g. piano.

Then, write each numbered item below on the board and elicit example answers from the students to ensure they understand the categories.

1. Something bigger than a piano, e.g. a bus.
2. Something smaller than a piano, e.g. a pen.
3. A verb that goes with piano, e.g. play.
4. A word that comes earlier in the dictionary than piano, e.g. eat.
5. A longer word beginning with the same letter, e.g. people.
6. A shorter word beginning with the same letter, e.g. pig.
7. An adjective to describe a piano, e.g. black.
8. The opposite of that adjective, e.g. white.

Next, explain that the students are going to play a game where they race to write answers for the items on the board and that the first team to complete all the answers for a given noun appropriately scores a point.

Write a noun on the board and begin the game.

Start with fairly easy nouns, e.g. baby, book, chair, horse, etc.

When a team has completed all the items, stop the game and go through their answers.

If the answers are appropriate, the team scores a point.

Then, begin the game again with another noun.

As the game progresses, give the students harder nouns, such as bicycle, camera, film, etc.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.