

Show Off

This is a great ESL game to develop the ability to get meaning across through non-verbal gestures and actions. It's played like "charades" but rather than movies or song titles, the player acts out a single word, a noun.

Cut the lists of words on the following pages so you have one word on each slip of paper. Fold the slips and put them into a large bag or hat. Divide the class into roughly equal teams. Choose a timekeeper.

The teams sit on different sides of the room. The first person on Team One takes a slip of paper from the bag, reads it silently, but does not show it to anyone on his or her team. The slip is passed to the members of the other team who see the word, but may not speak or tell the answer.

The timekeeper says "BEGIN."

The player stands in front of his or her team and acts out the word. The others on his or her team try to guess. The player may NOT speak or point to the object if it is in the room, but may use any kind of acting out, gesture, facial expression, or "drawing a picture in the air." Nodding and hand signaling helps the team know if they are "close." He or she shouts "YES!" when the word is guessed, and the timekeeper notes the number of seconds it took.

The score is the number of seconds that it takes the player to have others guess the answer. *The team with the lowest scores wins.*

After 120 seconds, the timekeeper says "TIME'S UP!" A player can either continue to act out the word until the team guesses the word or give up. However, the score for that round will not be worse than 120 seconds.

Then it's Team Two's turn. The first person on that team takes a word from the bag, and acts that out. Play rotates between the two teams, with everyone getting a chance to act out a word.

I've given you 180 words to begin with, but teams can make up words for the other team to guess when you run out.

book	pen	paper	eraser	teacher
key	scissors	window	picture	desk
tree	flower	house	school	lake
boat	car	food	water	dog
cat	horse	jet	ball	camera
money	frog	spoon	car	sandwich
stone	bird	box	fish	apple
grass	baby	dish	flag	lamp
milk	monkey	jacket	pig	queen
rabbit	radio	salt	soap	cookie
boat	mother	telephone	bed	bike
potato	banana	bread	bug	rope

bone	cage	donkey	chief	cheese
goose	beans	child	farmer	gown
hole	ice	nail	pillow	towel
bath	quarter	fan	moon	street
tea	garbage	witch	ghost	fire
alligator	ant	bear	cane	clown
crayons	diamond	feather	friend	hammer
piano	mountain	grandmother	pilot	prize
gift	puddle	skunk	smoke	snowman
spaghetti	squirrel	strawberry	sweater	tiger
toast	turtle	wagon	hot dog	butter
popcorn	wing	ice cream	dictionary	sofa

television	suit	Santa Claus	snow	blanket
cloud	umbrella	tennis	kite	mosquito
nest	seed	helicopter	bus	ticket
map	calendar	mirror	bullet	mop
clock	penny	shark	bottle	mouse
doll	drum	doctor	elephant	egg
pajamas	star	motorcycle	grapes	closet
lemon	ocean	electricity	computer	family
ruler	hanger	tissue	husband	tape
magazine	stapler	clip	magnet	lizard
nap	diploma	salad	dinner	napkin
hospital	bride	helmet	jewelry	handle