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Vocabulary Deck

Age/Level: Any Time: 20 minutes Players: Small teams Preparation: A pack of playing cards

Aim: To think of words or sentences beginning with certain letters

This is a motivating vocabulary game for developing students' word knowledge. It can also be used to practice word order and sentence structure for more advanced students. For this game, you will need a pack of playing cards.

Procedure

On the board, write as follows:

Ace – A, N	2 – B, O	3 – C, P	4 – D, Q	5 – E, R
6 – F, S	7 – G, T	8 – H, U	9 – I, V	10 – J, W
Jack – K, X	Queen – L, Y	King – M, Z		

As you can see, for each card from ace to king, two letters of the alphabet are assigned.

Put the students into small teams.

For low-level students:

Choose a category, e.g. sports, verbs, etc.

Shuffle the cards and turn the top card over. Show the card to the first team.

The students in the first team must think of a word beginning with one of the letters that card represents. For example, if the card is an ace, the students must say a word beginning with A or N. The word must match with the chosen category.

This is repeated with the second team, and so on.

Award points for correct answers. Also, give the teams a time limit for coming up with a word.

For higher-level students:

Turn over six or seven cards and have the teams write down a sentence using words beginning with the given letters, in the order they are drawn from the pack.

The teams can read their sentences aloud and win points accordingly.