

ESL Game: Name It!

Name It! is a simple reasoning game where students have to guess the keyword by listening to a number of clues. Each additional clue the students receive reduces the amount of points they can get. This game that can be either played cooperatively (as a class) or competitively (in teams).

Aim: To practice vocabulary and listening skills. Write their own words and clues

Materials: A copy of the printable cards below

Level: Teens and adults (Intermediate +) (This game can be adapted to lower levels)

Time: 10 - 15 minutes +

Method

1. First, print out a copy of the Keyword cards
2. Next, put students into teams.
3. Explain to your students that they have to guess the keyword. For each keyword there are 5 points. For every clue that the students need, they get one point less.
4. Start with the first team. Select a card and give them the first clue. If the students guess the word correctly they get five points. If they don't guess correctly give them the next clue. Continue until they guess the word. If they cannot guess the word allow the other team to answer.

Rules:

- Students can only make one guess after each clue

Example of play:

- Teacher selects a card with Kiwi as the keyword
- The teacher then tells the team the first clue, “Edible”
- The students guess a possible answer, “chips”
- As the answer is wrong the teacher continues to give the next clue “Round”
- The students guess again. This time they say ‘potato’.
- The teacher gives them another clue ‘fruit’
- The students guess ‘orange’
- Then the next clue is give, ‘Brown and green’.
- The students guess ‘Kiwi’ and then the teacher awards them **2 points**.

Extension:

Gives the teams a set of their own blank cards and get them to make a set for the other team based on words from units in their books.

Print and cut out these cards to play.

<p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p> <p>Sport Equipment (5)</p> <p>Team Sport (4)</p> <p>Usually White (3)</p> <p>Leather (2)</p> <p>Round (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KIWI</p> <p>Edible (5)</p> <p>Round (4)</p> <p>Fruit (3)</p> <p>Brown and Green (2)</p> <p>Hairy (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CAR</p> <p>Transport (5)</p> <p>Four wheels (4)</p> <p>Space for four people (3)</p> <p>Steering wheel (2)</p> <p>Begins with 'C' (1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BOOK</p> <p>Resource (5)</p> <p>Big or small (4)</p> <p>Informative (3)</p> <p>Can be boring (2)</p> <p>In your school bag (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PEN</p> <p>You use it in school (5)</p> <p>It is made of plastic (4)</p> <p>It can be many colours (3)</p> <p>It contains ink (2)</p> <p>You use it to write (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEACHER</p> <p>Apple (5)</p> <p>In the classroom (4)</p> <p>Informative(3)</p> <p>Helpful (2)</p> <p>Teaches (1)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DOG</p> <p>Four legs (5)</p> <p>Big or small (4)</p> <p>Fury (3)</p> <p>Man's best friend (2)</p> <p>Woof (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JUICE</p> <p>Different flavours (5)</p> <p>Sweet (4)</p> <p>Carton (3)</p> <p>Straw (2)</p> <p>Liquid (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SHOE</p> <p>There are two of them (5)</p> <p>You might have many (4)</p> <p>You wear it (3)</p> <p>There is a left and right (2)</p> <p>Wear them feet (1)</p>

Make your own cards or get students to make their own using these blank cards.
