**10 Best Games for teaching English as a foreign language. Part 2**

Games and fun activities are a vital part of teaching English as a foreign language (EFL).

Whether you're teaching adults or children, games will liven up your lesson and ensure that your students will leave the classroom wanting more.

Games can be used to warm up the class before your lesson begins, during the lesson to give students a break when you're tackling a tough subject, or at the end of class when you have a few minutes left to kill. There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of games that you can play with your students. EFL games are used to test vocabulary, practice conversing, learn tenses - the list is endless.

This list of ten classic ESL games every teacher should know will help get you started and feeling prepared. Having these up your sleeve before stepping into the classroom will ensure your lessons run smoothly, and, should things get a little out of control, you'll be able to pull back the attention of the class in no time.

### 6. Pictionary

This is another game that works well with any age group; children love it because they can get creative in the classroom, teenagers love it because it doesn't feel like they're learning, and adults love it because it's a break from the monotony of learning a new language - even though they'll be learning as they play.

*Pictionary* can help students practice their vocabulary and it tests to see if they're remembering the words you've been teaching.

**Why use it?**Vocabulary

**Who it's best for:**All ages; best with young learners

**How to play**:

* Before the class starts, prepare a bunch of words and put them in a bag.
* Split the class into teams of 2 and draw a line down the middle of the board.
* Give one team member from each team a pen and ask them to choose a word from the bag.
* Tell the students to draw the word as a picture on the board and encourage their team to guess the word.
* The first team to shout the correct answer gets a point.
* The student who has completed drawing should then nominate someone else to draw for their team.
* Repeat this until all the words are gone - make sure you have enough words that each student gets to draw at least once!

### 7. The Mime

*Miming* is an excellent way for students to practice their tenses and their verbs. It's also great for teachers with minimal resources   or planning time, or teachers who want to break up a longer lesson with something more interactive. It's adaptable to almost any language point that you might be focusing on.

This game works with any age group, although you will find that adults tire of this far quicker than children. To keep them engaged, relate what they will be miming to your groups' personal interests as best as possible.

**Why use it?**Vocabulary; Speaking

**Who it's best for:**All ages; best with young learners

**How to play:**

Before the class, write out some actions - like washing the dishes - and put them in a bag.

* Split the class into two teams.
* Bring one student from each team to the front of the class and one of them choose an action from the bag.
* Have both students mime the action to their team.
* The first team to shout the correct answer wins a point.
* Repeat this until all students have mimed at least one action.

### 8. Hot Seat

This is one of students' favorite games and is always at the top of the list when you ask them what they want to play.

*Hot Seat* allows students to build their vocabulary and encourages competition in the classroom. They are also able to practice their speaking and listening skills and it can be used for any level of learner.

**Why use it?**Vocabulary; Speaking and Listening

**Who it's best for:**All ages and levels

**How to play:**

* Split the class into 2 teams, or more if you have a large class.
* Elect one person from each team to sit in the Hot Seat, facing the classroom with the board behind them.
* Write a word on the board. One of the team members of the student in the hot seat must help the student guess the word by describing it. They have a limited amount of time and cannot say, spell or draw the word.
* Continue until each team member has described a word to the student in the *Hot Seat.*

### 9. Where Shall I Go?

This game is used to test prepositions of movement and should be played after this subject has been taught in the classroom. This game is so much fun but it can be a little bit dangerous since you'll be having one student in each pair be blindfolded while the other directs them. So make sure to keep your eyes open!

It is also excellent for the adult EFL classroom, or if you're teaching teenagers.

**Why use it?** Prepositions; Speaking and Listening

**Who it's best for: All ages and levels**

**How to play:**

* Before the students arrive, turn your classroom into a maze by rearranging it. It's great if you can do this outside, but otherwise push tables and chairs together and move furniture to make your maze.
* When your students arrive, put them in pairs outside the classroom. Blindfold one student from each pair.
* Allow pairs to enter the classroom one at a time; the blindfolded student should be led through the maze by their partner. The students must use directions such as step over, go under, go up, and go down to lead their partner to the end of the maze.

### 10. What's My Problem?

This is a brilliant EFL game to practice giving advice. It should be played after the 'giving advice' vocabulary lesson has taken place. It is a great way for students to see what they have remembered and what needs reviewing. This game works well with any age group, just adapt it to fit the age you're working with.

**Why use it? Speaking and Listening; Giving Advice**

**Who it's best for: All ages and levels**

**How to play:**

* Write ailments or problems related to your most recent lesson on post-it notes and stick one post-it note on each student's back.
* The students must mingle and ask for advice from other students to solve their problem.
* Students should be able to guess their problem based on the advice they get from their peers.
* Use more complicated or obscure problems to make the game more interesting for older students. For lower levels and younger students, announce a category or reference a recent lesson, like "Health", to help them along.

These games will keep your students engaged and happy as they learn! Remember, these are just ten on the hundreds of different EFL games that you can plat with your students. As you get more confident in the classroom, you can start putting your own spin on games and eventually make up your own.

Whatever the age of your students, they're guaranteed to love playing EFL games in the classroom. An EFL classroom should be fun, active and challenging and these games are sure to get you heading in the right direction.