



Language Games

Lawrence Earle 2025

In the classroom:

- Charades
- Bingo
- Hangman
- 20 Questions
- Sentence Scramble

Other activities

- Taboo
- Picture difference
- Jigsaw reading
- Tongue Twisters

Individual:

Online quizzes, vocabulary games, grammar challenges

- Points & rewards: sense of achievement & progress
- Challenges & leaderboard: competitive element
- Feedback & Progress Tracking: guide language learning journey
- Personalization & Adaptive Learning: customize content & adapt difficulty level of activities to ensure optimal learning outcomes
- Collaborative Learning: social interaction by group activities, multiplayer games.

- NB must be fun, stimulating and above all simple and easy to play

Individual:

Video games

- add another dimension - immersive storylines, simulating real-life scenarios, problem solving, decision making, role playing

Examples

- World of Warcraft
- The SIMs
- Minecraft

Individual:

Other activities

- Reading (books, newspapers, internet sites)
- Watching films (with subtitles)
- Watching news programmes (BBC, Reuters, Sky News)
- Listening to songs
- Keeping a diary
- Facebook etc – in English (or the language you're learning)!

Knowword:

High-speed English vocabulary practice

Level: Intermediate/Advanced, but other levels available

- The rules are very simple: you have one minute to read as many definitions as you can and write the correct answer. You can however change the time limit.
- Each time you give a correct answer, you get one or two extra seconds, and every four correct answers give you a hint. You can skip as many words as you want, so make sure you press "Esc" or click on "Skip" whenever you don't know a word.

<https://knowword.com/play>

Visual Thesaurus Spelling Bee:

Spelling game for advanced English learners

Level: Advanced

- Listen to a word and try to spell it correctly. However, some of the words you'll hear are so hard to spell that you'll start to feel the bee is laughing at you and your misspellings.
- The game comes with statistics, a free look at the visual thesaurus for the words you spell correctly, and all the definitions of the words divided by part of speech.
- The words seem to get more difficult as you play and some of them can be a little obscure.

<https://www.visualthesaurus.com/bee/play>

Word Whomp:

A game that tests your spelling skills and memorization

Level: All levels

- This is much more like a video game and it lets you practice your English writing and spelling skills.
- In this game, you're given six letters and need to determine how many words can be spelled with those letters. You have two and a half minutes to come up with every word. If you guess too many incorrect words, the game will end.
- You'll practice quickly thinking of English vocabulary words—a skill that'll be very useful in real-life English conversations.

<https://www.pogo.com/games/word-whomp/play>

Freerice:

A quiz-style game that helps you improve your vocabulary skills

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

- Instead of answering word problems, you're given a vocabulary word and then have to find its closest synonym out of four different words. The game starts out easy, but with 60 levels in total, it gets much harder as you go along.
- What really makes Freerice different from other games is that the company will donate 10 grains of rice to hungry families for every question that you answer right.
- So the more you play, the more you're helping those in need.

<https://play.freerice.com/>

Human Brain Cloud:

Word association game that offers free English practice

Level: All levels

- Described as “a massively multiplayer word association game,” the Human Brain Cloud is not really a game in the usual sense: there are no points or time limits.
- You’re given random words, and your goal is to type in words, expressions or even sentences you associate with the words you get. There are no right or wrong answers. The program simply takes your answers and adds them to the association bank.
- If you click on a word, you’ll see a “cloud” with your word in the middle connected to other words people associate it with. This is when the fun starts, because you can use this feature to learn vocabulary.

<https://www.humanbraincloud.com/>

Scrabble Online:

Online version of the board game for improving your English vocabulary

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

- Originally designed as a board game, you can now play Scrabble online with a friend, against another virtual player or against the computer.
- You choose seven letters in the form of tiles and use them to make words. Every square has a letter and number written on it that represents the points that you get for using that letter.
- All tiles touching one another have to make a real English word, and you have to build words using the letters from other words that have already been laid down.

<https://playscrabble.com/>

LyricsTraining:

A fun way to learn the lyrics of your favourite songs.

Level: Elementary and above

- It's an easy and fun way to learn and improve your foreign languages skills, through the music videos and the lyrics of your favourite songs.
- Fill in the gaps to the lyrics as you listen and there's also a special Karaoke mode that lets you sing and enjoy the full lyrics.

<https://lyricstraining.com/>

20 Questions Online:

Digital version of the classic question-and-answer game

Level: All levels

- First, think of an animal, vegetable, mineral, concept or unknown word.
- Once you have chosen your word, the system will start asking questions that you'll have to answer with words such as "yes," "no," "unknown," "sometimes," "maybe" and more.
- Each question together with your answer will appear on the screen while you play. By the end of question number 20, the system will tell you what it believes you're thinking about.
- If it's not able to guess your word, you win!

<http://20q.net/>

duolingo:

Gamified learning experience makes learning fun

Level: All levels

- Duolingo is a great way to learn a lot of words fast. It uses a combination of pictures and words to help you understand the new language, and as you progress through the levels it repeats the words you have learned to make sure you still know what they mean.
- Duolingo is best for memorizing new words, it also can be a great way to get better at grammar and it often puts vocabulary words into common sentences and phrases so that you can begin to get a feel for English grammar.
- You can download the Duolingo app on your phone, and you can download individual lessons to play offline with a Duolingo Plus account.

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

Sites:

Adapted from:

- <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/games-to-learn-english/>
- <https://preply.com/en/blog/at-home-language-learning-games/>
- <https://smartico.ai/blog-post/gamification-in-language-learning>

Other sites:

- <https://www.gamestolearnenglish.com/>
- <https://www.englishclub.com/esl-games/>
- <https://games4esl.com/esl-classroom-games/>
- <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/>



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The End