

STORIES FROM THE SEA

WORD TENNIS WARM-UP



Key learning outcomes

Expanding and exercising vocabulary

Practising rhyming and spelling

Activity

Word tennis is an excellent way of encouraging children to develop their vocabulary. The game can be tailored to any theme that is being taught, and can be a good way of demonstrating subject knowledge.

Divide the class into pairs. Each pair will play the game between them. Explain what the theme and rules of the game will be. The game's difficulty can be altered to suit the age and ability of the children; themes can be chosen to promote responses which are nouns, adjectives etc. Each child takes it in turn to say a word based on a theme; then, according to the particular rules of the game, the other must respond with a suitable word of their own: if they cannot their partner scores a point. The aim of the game is to score three points.

Two rules for word tennis can be used regardless of the theme:

1. Each player has five seconds to think of a word

2. Each word can only be used once

Other rules can be added to make the game more complicated, such as:

1. The words must rhyme

2. The word must begin with the next letter of the alphabet

3. The word must begin with a different letter of the alphabet

4. The word must begin with the same letter of the alphabet

5. The word must begin with the last letter of the previous word

6. Each letter of the alphabet may only be used as the beginning letter once

7. A player only scores a point if they can give an acceptable word when their opponent can't

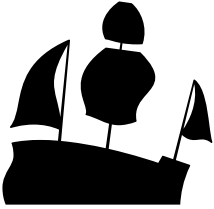


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More ideas

Consider asking the children for rule suggestions.

Turn the warm-up into a mini-tournament in which winners go through to the next round. Reward first, second and third place.



Suggested Themes

Shipwright: name the different parts of the ship

Cargo manifest: each word must be an object transported by ship

Sea: each word must describe the sea - use all your senses!



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