

Part 1: Listening

Listening is an important skill which should be practised as often as possible. If you play these games regularly, even for just a few minutes at a time, then pupils should soon develop confidence.

Pupils need to listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding. In some of the games, all that is needed is a physical response to show that pupils have understood; in others, listening goes hand in hand with speaking.

Songs, rhymes and drama games allow pupils to explore the patterns and sounds of the language in a fun, age-appropriate way. See some suggestions on page 245.

Many of the games in Part 2: Speaking also involve listening practice, and Part 3: Reading contains a number of games that link the sound, spelling and meaning of words and phrases.

3 Dog and bone/L'os et les chiens

Step by step

1. Play this game in a hall or outdoors. Divide the class into two teams. The pupils are the 'dogs' who want to get the 'bone'. The teams stand in two lines facing each other, with a large gap for running between the teams.

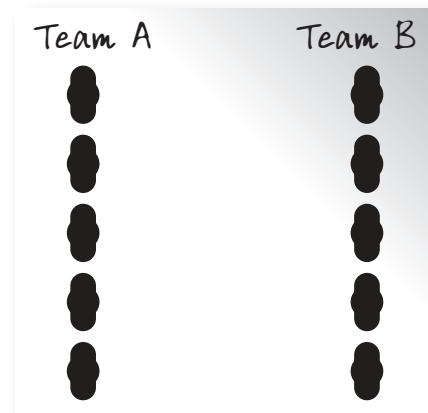
2. Give each child a word from the vocabulary set you want to revise.

For example, if you are revising months of the year: A: *janvier*, B: *février*, C: *mars*, D: *avril*, E: *mai*, F: *juin*, G: *juillet*, H: *août*, I: *septembre*, J: *octobre*, K: *novembre*, L: *décembre*.

Both teams have the same words, but not in the same order (i.e. pupils with the same word should not be immediately opposite each other). For example, Team B might have: A: *mars*, B: *septembre*, C: *janvier*, D: *juin*, etc.

3. Put a soft object such as a soft toy, a beanbag or a scarf on the floor in the middle between the teams. This is the 'bone'.
4. Call out a word or sentence containing the word. For example:
T: *Avril!* (April) or *Mon anniversaire est en avril* (My birthday is in April).
5. The pupil from each team who has that word runs forward to pick up the object in the centre before her opposite number. Whoever grabs it first wins a point for their team.

Classroom management	Whole class
Skill	Listening
Aim	To revise vocabulary
Resources	Soft object, e.g. soft toy, scarf or beanbag



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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Mettez-vous en rang.</i> | Line up. |
| <i>Vous êtes les chiens.</i> | You are the dogs. |
| <i>Attrapez l'os.</i> | Grab the bone. |

Comments

- This is a traditional playground game in France, where it is called *Le béret*. Traditionally, the object placed in the centre was a beret, often worn by schoolboys up to the mid-twentieth century.



To increase the level of challenge, add this rule (from the game of *Le béret*): once a dog has got the bone, they can be stopped by the other dog if she manages to touch him. The bone must then be put back in the middle.

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.