Hola ball game

Action game

Objectives

- To practise key introduction words
- Game can be extended to include other introduction phrases as required

Setting up the game

- You need two or more different coloured balls.

How to play the game

1. Pupils stand in two lines facing each other. The end pupil starts with one of the balls, and throws it to the pupil opposite. That person then throws the ball to the pupil diagonally opposite, who throws it this time to the person directly opposite and so on. The ball thus makes its way in a zig-zag along the two lines.

'Hola'
'Hola'

2. While throwing and catching the ball, each pupil must say 'Hola'.
Using a different coloured ball, repeat the game, but this time say 'Adiós'.

3. Now, tell the children to take note of the colour of the ball. Using the red ball, for instance, they say 'Hola', and with the blue ball, they say 'Adiós'.

4. Start the game off with one ball again, then introduce the other ball after a couple of throws. This makes them think about which word they are saying! You could introduce further coloured balls with '¿Cómo estás?', 'Bien, gracias', 'Me llamo …'. Try as many as the group can manage!

5. As a rounding-up test, stand in a large circle, and pick a pupil to hold the coloured balls in the centre. They then throw the balls (gently!) to pupils at random who must say the appropriate phrase for that colour of ball as it is thrown. Younger pupils may find that concentrating on more than two colours/phrases at once is too difficult, but older groups will enjoy the challenge of several colours/phrases in this game.
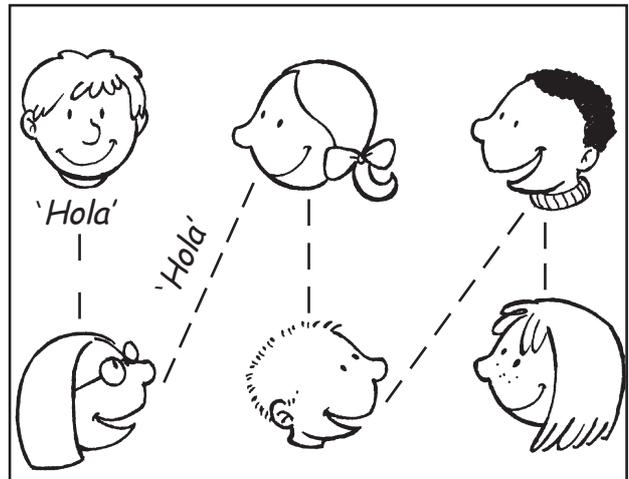
Extensions/variations

- Adapt the game to practise vocabulary groups; each time a player catches the ball the pupil must say a different animal word/colour/food item.
- Use the ball throwing idea to practise lists of words, passing the ball up and down the line or in a circle; practise the alphabet in Spanish/days/months/numbers.