

- Description** Students practise defining words by playing a vocabulary game
Lesson link Use this activity at the end of the lesson
Time 30 minutes
Extra material Small pieces of paper for SS to write on, a bag to put the pieces of paper in, a watch for timing

Instructions

- a** You need to cut up pieces of paper (about 5 x 3 cm). You'll need three pieces of paper for each student in your class – so if you have 15 students in your class, you'll need 45 pieces of paper. Give out three pieces of paper to each student. Tell SS that they should write one word on each piece of paper. The words should be:

- a thing - a well-known person - a verb

Ask SS to keep their words secret, and fold up the pieces of paper. Collect the pieces of paper, put them in the bag, and mix them up.

- b** Divide SS into teams of four or five. Explain that one student in Team 1 is going to take a word out of the bag and describe it to their team mates *without saying it* – the team mates must guess the word as quickly as possible. When they've guessed the word, the student keeps the piece of paper and passes the bag to the next team member, who takes a word and describes it. The team has *one minute* to describe as many words as possible.
- c** After one minute, stop Team 1 and pass the bag to Team 2, who do the same thing. After their minute is up, pass the bag to Team 3, and so on. Keep going till all the words have gone from the bag. The team with the most words is the winner of that round – record all the teams' scores on the board.
- d** Now put all the words back in the bag and play the game again. This time the student defining a word can only say three words, and no more – they mustn't use the words on the pieces of paper, and they need to choose their words very carefully!
- e** When all the words have gone from the bag, the teams should count how many they have – add their scores to the scores on the board.
- f** Finally, put all the words back in the bag and play the game for the third and final time. This time the student defining a word must mime it – they mustn't say anything.
- g** When all the words have gone from the bag, the teams should count how many they have again. The team with the highest score over the three rounds is the winner.