



## Some Advantages of Using Games in Teaching Foreign Languages

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**Annotation:** *It is generally agreed that games, encourage learners to interact, cooperate, to be creative and spontaneous in using the language in a meaningful way. Learners want to take part in activities, to play games and are generally quite competitive. In order for them to take part they must be able to understand and communicate in the target language. Moreover, games also encourage learners to keep interested in the work and a teacher can use them to create contexts in which the language is useful.*

*However, using this method that includes games and a variety of activities will allow young learners to learn vocabularies of the language very fast. Using games when teaching vocabulary to young learners require trained teachers who involve learners in playing and mastered the linguistic part of the language.*

**Keywords:** *experimenting, discovering, interacting, advantages of using games, distinguished characteristics, target language, pronunciation, spelling, structure, educational value.*

It is known that students learn through experimenting, discovering and interacting with their environment so they continuously need variation to increase their motivation.

So, why not use games in teaching English? Since by using games students already have a context in which the use of the target language is immediately useful. This learning situation is similar to how mother tongue speakers would learn without being aware they are studying. Some advantages of using games in teaching vocabulary in the classroom are also worth mentioning: they are a welcome break from the usual routine of the language class, they are learner centered, they reduce learning anxiety, they are motivating and challenging they can offer foster participatory attitudes of the students, they integrate various linguistic skills, they provide language practice in the various skills – speaking, writing, listening and reading – encourage creative and spontaneous use of language. Learners, with their distinguished characteristics as natural language acquirers, cannot be exposed to serious learning all the time; thus, teachers need to keep modifying their lessons to fit this type of learners. While games are thought to be fun and benefit learners in various ways, games have become the most suitable activities for learners. However, since teachers are solely responsible in making decisions on what to teach in class, it is best to explore the teachers' points of view on games as learning activities. We, as future teachers of English ask ourselves "Why should a teacher use games?" Well, the answer is quite simple. The main reason would be because these activities have a great educational value and they can be used in the classroom to make learners develop their speaking abilities, use the language instead of just thinking about learning the correct forms and, last but not least make lessons very entertaining because they offer students a fun-filled and relaxing learning atmosphere.

Another aspect that must be taken into consideration is "When to use games?" Games could be used anytime because they must be more than just fun, games should involve "friendly" competition, games keep all of the students involved and interested, games should encourage students to focus on

the use of language rather than on the language itself, games should give students a chance to learn, practice, or review specific language material. On the other hand, there are important aspects to consider when games are used in the classroom. For instance, teachers should know that they must choose suitable activities (depending on the number of students, proficiency level, cultural context, timing, learning topic, and the classroom settings). Moreover, the way students perceive drama depends on the actual design and implementation of the activity, therefore teachers must give clear instructions, give clear rules and give clear time limits, they must rather demonstrate than explain, they must make sure that there must be a clear purpose and achievable goals. Young learners need to pay attention to some elements of English language such as pronunciation, spelling, structure, and vocabulary. To master English skills, students must know the vocabulary of the language i.e. a list of words with their meaning because it supports their skills' improvement. In order to speak and write English, children need to learn one to two thousand words. The linguist, David Wilkins, stated that "Without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed". Young learners usually use labeling when they first start to learn to speak then categorizing skills. Thornbury stated that young learners develop a network building in which they construct complex ideas. They realize that there are other words such as synonyms and antonyms and others during this process. There are several approaches and methods that could be used to teach English vocabulary to young learners. Using real objects that learners could visualize later is a good way to learn vocabularies of the language. They need to listen to their teaching using the word and repeat it as well. Another method is the direct method where there is no translation and using the mother tongue is prohibited. The complete sentences in the target language are the only thing used in the classroom. Another method is the Total Physical Response which is used a lot by teachers because children are hyper, physically active and could not concentrate for a long time.

Learning a foreign language is not an easy thing. It is a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and efforts. Nowadays it is especially important to know foreign languages. Some people learn languages because they need them for their work, others travel abroad, for the third studying languages is a hobby. Everyone, who knows foreign languages can speak to people from other countries, read foreign writers in the original, which makes your outlook wider. Learning a foreign language can literally change your life: increase your self-esteem, jumpstart your professional life and more. Despite this, it is something that most people only pursue if relocation or other life circumstances require it. This is a shame because developing an understanding of languages offers a wide array of benefits. You might think that knowing a foreign language is only necessary when interacting with a person who speaks that language. However, the very act of becoming multilingual can improve your life in ways you can't even imagine. Rixon stated that understanding games will help teachers in finding and creating games that make their students learn while they play. In conclusion, we firmly believe that games are an effective way of helping students to learn vocabulary, as they use active teaching and learning styles likely to motivate and sustain the attention of a wide cross section of pupils.

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