

Activity Type

Speaking Game:
translating, forming
sentences from prompts
(group work)

Focus

Grammar

Vocabulary

Sentence structure

Aim

To translate sentences
from the students' native
language into English.

Preparation

None

Level

Any

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This popular ESL sentence race game can be used to help students practice any language point.

Procedure

Divide the students into two teams.

One player from each team comes to the front of the class and sits with their back to the board.

Write a sentence on the board behind the two players.

When you say 'go', the two teams use their native language to tell their player the sentence on the board.

The two players then race to translate the sentence into English.

Teams can translate word by word or by saying the whole sentence.

The only rule is that they must use their native language.

When a player thinks they can say the complete sentence in English unaided, they put up their hand and say the sentence.

The first player to translate the sentence correctly scores a point for their team.

When a sentence has been correctly translated, select two new players to sit in the chairs and write a new sentence on the board.

The first team to ten points wins the game.