

Vocabulary maze

by Elena Filimonova, Aislyu Ryukova & Dina Valieva

Activity type: Maze game**Student grouping:** Pairs**Time:** 15 minutes approx.**Skills practiced:** Listening comprehension, phonetic and memory training, production and accuracy**Materials needed:** One copy of the Game board and Clues worksheet for each pair**Summary:** This vocabulary review game helps students practise the memory skills needed when answering multiple choice exam tasks.**Preparation**

Explain to students that the aim of the game is to be the first pair to exit the maze, by correctly identifying the starting word and then following the clues. The players need to find a way through the maze in 25 moves by moving horizontally, vertically or diagonally from square to square.

Put students into pairs and give one student in each pair a copy of the Game board and the other a copy of the Clues worksheet. The student with the Game board will be the player and the student with the Clues will be the reader.

How to play the game

The reader reads out the definition of the word on the 'Start Square' from the Clues worksheet. The player should then search the Game board for the correct word and call it out. If the reader agrees it's the right answer, the player should mark it on their maze. If the reader disagrees, the pair should look through the Game board together to find a word they can agree on before they move on to the next clue.

The reader should then read out the clue to the next word. This word, and all subsequent words in the game, will be found adjacent to each other on the board, including diagonally. When marked off, the words will form a visual path towards the exit square.

The winning pair is the first to identify the correct exit square, but you could also award points to all groups that correctly identify the correct exit square.

Teaching notes

- In the IELTS listening exam, the multiple-choice options do not appear in the order in which they are heard on the recording, so it is important to ensure that students read all of the options first and keep them in mind as they answer the questions. This game helps students practise this skill.
- As an alternative way to play the game, the teacher, or a confident student, can take the role of the reader, while the rest of the class work in pairs to complete the maze.
- This game can be used as a warm up to a lesson, or to drill particular vocabulary or grammar structures. It also practices one-time listening skills, which are important in the IELTS exam. The content can be substituted with the lexis under study, and for this reason we have included a blank game board and clue sheet, as well as the example game.

Answer key

Start square: glance

Move 1: doze

Move 2: rave

Move 3: deliberate

Move 4: stagger

Move 5: identical

Move 6: cascade

Move 7: glitter

Move 8: execute

Move 9: hurl

Move 10: demolish

Move 11: abdicate

Move 12: inherit

Move 13: deluge

Move 14: ransom

Move 15: acquisition

Move 16: collide

Move 17: depreciate

Move 18: grasp

Move 19: eavesdrop

Move 20: itinerary

Move 21: insipid

Move 22: arid

Move 23: drizzle

Exit square: injury

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START SQUARE: to take a quick look at something

Move 1: to sleep lightly

Move 2: to shout angrily and wildly as if mad

Move 3: not accidental, done on purpose

Move 4: to walk very unsteadily

Move 5: exactly the same

Move 6: to fall like a waterfall

Move 7: to shine brightly like a diamond

Move 8: to kill as a punishment as a trial

Move 9: to throw very strongly

Move 10: to knock down

Move 11: to give up a position of power, usually that of a king or queen

Move 12: to receive money or property from someone who has died

Move 13: a heavy rainstorm; a downpour

Move 14: money paid for a kidnapper to make him or her release a prisoner

Move 15: a company that is taken over by another company

Move 16: to bump into something by mistake

Move 17: to lose value

Move 18: to squeeze, to hold firmly

Move 19: to listen secretly to a private conversation

Move 20: the route of a journey, the outline of a tour

Move 21: lacking taste or flavour, boring

Move 22: excessively dry












Move 23: very fine rain

EXIT SQUARE: wound, bruise

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FUN WITH IELTS GAME BOARD

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| START A | stare |  | START B | glance |  | START C | gaze |  | START D | twinkle |
| dream | doze | switch | nap | glitter | crash | hurl | brave | demolish | abdicate |  |
| whimper | rave | cry | cascade | flame | execute | flip | demolish | abdicate | abdicate | |
| definite | deliberate | similar | identical | blunt | torture | abandon | abdicate | abdicate | abdicate | |
|  | crawl | stagger |    | | flood | inherit | | | | |
| absorb | disappear | worsen | | | evacuate | acquisition | treason | deluge | | |
| overhear | beat up | depreciate | collide | overtaking | ransom | cure | ghost | | | |
| sensitive | grasp | set | agenda | savour | drain | mist | donate | | | |
| overkill | excavate | eavesdrop | itinerary | insipid | arid | drizzle | darling | | | |
| EXIT A |  | damage |  | | rainfall |  | injury | | | |
| | EXIT B | EXIT C | | | EXIT D | | | | | |

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FUN WITH IELTS
CLUES WORKSHEET: BLANK

START SQUARE: _____

Move 1: _____

Move 2: _____

Move 3: _____

Move 4: _____

Move 5: _____

Move 6: _____

Move 7: _____

Move 8: _____

Move 9: _____

Move 10: _____

Move 11: _____

Move 12: _____

Move 13: _____

Move 14: _____

Move 15: _____

Move 16: _____

Move 17: _____

Move 18: _____

Move 19: _____

Move 20: _____

Move 21: _____

Move 22: _____












Move 23: _____

EXIT SQUARE: _____

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FUN WITH IELTS GAME BOARD: BLANK

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| START D | | | | |  | | | | | | EXIT D |
| |  | | | | | | | | | |  |
| START C | | | | | | | | | | | EXIT C |
| |  | | | |    | | | | |  | |
| START B | | | | | | | | | | | EXIT B |
| |  | | | | | | | | | |  |
| START A | | | | |  | | | | | | EXIT A |