

The ring game: order of adjectives

by Jill Hadfield

Level: Intermediate

Target age: secondary / adult

Time needed: 15-20 minutes

Grammar objective: to practise adjective order for size, shape, colour and materials

Materials: paper, coloured pens or pencils, a copy of the card templates for each student, if necessary

Summary: This is a fluency-focused card game designed to practise adjective order.

Procedure

1. The students will need paper and coloured pens or pencils.
2. Get each student to take a sheet of paper and cut it into six equal cards. They can use the card templates provided if you prefer.
3. Have each of them draw three rings with different sized, shaped and coloured stones on three different cards. If they know the names of stones and metals (e.g. gold, silver, diamond, emerald, etc.), they can specify these on the card.
4. They should then copy each ring onto the remaining three cards.
5. Put students in groups of four.
6. Ask each group to put all their cards together and shuffle them.
7. They should deal them out equally to each player.
8. They may look at their cards.
9. If they have two identical cards, they may lay them down.
10. Player 1 begins by asking the player to his left (Player 2) for a card matching one in his hand, e.g.: *Paola, have you got a small oval blue ring?* (Or *Paola, what I'd like for my birthday is a small oval sapphire ring.*)
11. If Paola has the card, she must give it to Player 1, who can lay both cards down. If not, she gives the player any other card from her hand, saying, e.g. *Sorry, I've only got a big round red ring.* (Or *I'm sorry, I've already bought you this big round ruby ring...*)
12. Then it is Player 2's turn.
13. The player to get rid of all his cards first is the winner.

(It is best to set up the game by demonstrating how to play with one group while the others watch.)

Tip:

Students can be encouraged to have fun by 'embroidering' the exchanges and adding their own comments, e.g.:

- *I'd like a big round ruby ring with diamonds around it.*
- *Sorry, Susana, I've only got a silver ring with a small square diamond. You'll have to find someone else who can give you a big ring like that.*

Hint: A series of adjectives before a noun tends to come in the following order:

(1) comparative / superlative (2) opinion (3) size / shape (4) age (5) colour (6) origin / nationality (7) material (8) type / purpose.

For example: *The most beautiful desirable square Victorian white African diamond ring.* Not that you are ever likely to use all categories in one go!

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<http://www.onestopenglish.com/section.asp?docid=153513>

<http://www.onestopenglish.com/section.asp?docid=144843#7>

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TEACHER'S NOTES

