

## How to play?

**Level:** Elementary

**Age:** Children (Primary)

**Time needed:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** Review vocabulary related to a specific category (animals) while encouraging speaking skills and semantic awareness.

**Skills:** Vocabulary, Listening, Speaking

**Materials needed:** Set of cards for each team

### Warm-up Tips

Before starting the game, play animal sounds or show animal pictures. Ask students to pay attention and say the words aloud. Then, encourage students to share what they can say about each animal: color, size, special features, where it can be found, etc. Use three to five different animals as examples to introduce the game.

The same approach can be applied for other categories (food, clothes, actions, jobs, etc.). This will help activate students' schemata before the game. Flashcards can be shown or projected for a faster review. If possible, bring realia for a more meaningful practice.

### Instructions: Animals Charades

- Photocopy and cut as many card sets as you need for each team.
- Divide the class into small groups. Give each team a set of animal cards to play.
- Ask students to put cards face down and take turns to pick up a card.
- Explain to students that they should not look at the card and must place it on their forehead so that their classmates can see the card.
- The rest of the team should give simple hints to help their classmate guess what animal it is.
- Remind students that they should not say the name of the animal.
- The next student can take their turn once the previous one has guessed the animal.

### Build Your Own Cards!

- Cut and hand out empty card sets.
- If time allows, ask students to draw the vocabulary items you want to review. You could provide printed images or stickers to fill the cards more quickly. For shorter time frames, ask students to write the words on each card.
- To add more complexity, words can be written with mixed letters so that students can guess the word first and then give hints to their classmate.

### Follow up Activities

Vocabulary games are a great opportunity to encourage and develop Speaking Skills. Encourage students to respect taking turns while playing. Emphasize the importance of listening to their classmates carefully.

After this game, students can use cards to create collages of different scenes related to vocabulary groups. This could be helpful to start a grammar lesson related to What's this / that? or There is / are. When playing with other categories, try to combine vocabulary and grammar aims.