

## Alphabet race

**Level:** A1.2, B1.1, B1.2

**Age:** 8-12

**Organization:** teams

**Aims:** To recall vocabulary and spelling at speed; to collaborate as part of a team.

**Language focus:** familiar vocabulary, letters of the alphabet

**Materials:** *Essential:* none

### Procedure

1. Divide the class into two teams. Number the children in each team and explain that this is the order in which they should come to the board.
2. Draw a line down the centre of the board to separate the space for each team.
3. Explain that the object of the game is for each team to write a word on the board for each letter of the alphabet in order as fast as they can.
4. All books must be closed during the game and the teams are not allowed to write the same words for any letter. This means if one team has already written the word apple for A, then the other team must think of another word, e.g. animal. If the teams can't think of a word for a letter, they write 'Pass'
5. There can only be one child at the board from each team at a time and the next child can only go once the previous child is sitting down again. It is up to you whether to write the letters of the alphabet across the top of the board before the game to ensure that children follow the order correctly.
6. Start the game by saying, e.g. *Number ones. Are you ready? Go!*
7. Stop the game as soon as one team gets to the end of the alphabet.
8. Score the game by counting the number of 'passes' for each team (for the team who hasn't finished, these also include all the letters still outstanding) and deduct points for spelling mistakes. The team with the most correctly spelt words is the winner.

### Comments and Suggestions

- This game is useful for revising vocabulary and spelling. Children also find it motivating and enjoyable. However, they may also tend to get over-excited. If this is the case, you will need to settle them with a quieter activity following the game, e.g. copying their team's alphabet of words into their notebooks.
- As a follow-up, it may be appropriate to get children to make and illustrate an alphabet frieze or book.