

The last word

Level: All

Age: 8-12

Organization: pairs

Aims: To practise saying the days of the week (and/or months of the year) in sequence; to logically deduce how to say the 'last word'; to take turns in pairs.

Language focus: days of the week (and/or months of the year)

Alternatives: any poem, rhyme, or text containing familiar language, about 8-12 sentences long

Materials: *Essential:* none/*Optional:* photo copies of the selected text (one for each pair)

Procedure

1. Divide the class into pairs.
2. Explain and demonstrate that children should take turns to say the days of the week. They can say one or two days at a time. The winner is the child who says the 'last word' i.e. 'Sunday' e.g. P1: Monday P2: Tuesday, Wednesday P1: Thursday P2: Friday P1: Saturday, Sunday.
3. Give the children time to play three or four rounds of the game with their partner, alternating who starts each time. The child who says 'Sunday' most times in each pair is the winner.
4. If appropriate, children can repeat the game with the months of the year. In this game, they can say up to three months at a time, and the winner each time is the child who says 'December'.

Comments and Suggestions

- This game provides lots of repetition practice of the days of the week or months of the year, which is made cognitively challenging by deducing how many words to say in order to be left with the 'last word' and win.
- This game can also be used to provide practice in reading a rhyme, poem or short text which is familiar to the children. In this case, children work in pairs and take turns to read one or two lines or sentences of the text. The winner is the child who says the 'last sentence' or 'last line' each time rather than the 'last word'.