

Flashcard Vocabulary Activities

Level: A1.1, A1.2, A2.1, A2.2

Age: 6-10

Organization: Whole class

Aims: To recognize, practise and memorize vocabulary through associating words, meanings and pictures.

Language focus: any lexical set or combination of lexical sets

Materials: *Essential:* flashcards, for one or more lexical sets / *Optional:* word cards to match the flashcards

Procedure

Use any one or more of the following procedures:

3.2a Flashcard instructions

1. Stick a set of flashcards on the walls around the classroom.
2. Divide the class into groups.
3. Give each group instructions in turn, e.g. *Group 1 walk to the elephant. Group 2 – jump to the lion.*

3.2b Flashcard groups

1. Divide the class into groups. Assign each group a flashcard, e.g. 'apple' – this is their name.
2. Give instructions, e.g. *Apples, touch your nose! Carrots, put your hands on your head!* Children listen and follow the instructions for their group.

3.2c Missing flashcards

1. Stick a set of flashcards on the board. Children say the words.
2. Ask the children to close their eyes. Remove one of the flashcards. Children open their eyes and name the missing flashcard.

3.2d Magic eyes

1. Stick a set of flashcards in a row on the board. Children say or repeat the words.
2. Remove the flashcards one by one. Point to where they were and children repeat the names as if they were still there.

3.2e Lip reading

Stick a set of flashcards on the board. Choose one flashcard and mouth the word silently. Children read your lips and say the word.

3.2f Repeat if it's true

Stick a set of flashcards on the board. Point to one of the flashcards and say the word. If you have said the correct word, children repeat it. If not, they fold their arms and stay silent. This activity can be made more challenging if you say sentences, e.g. *it's blue car!*

3.2g Flashcard chain

1. Stand or sit in a circle with the children.
2. Pass a flashcard to the child on your left and ask, eg *Do you like ...? Or What's this?*
3. The child answers, then asks the question and passes the flashcard to the next child, and so on round the circle.
4. Introduce other flashcards in the same way until all the flashcards in the set have passed round the circle.

Comments and suggestions

- Short activities using flashcards familiarize children with vocabulary which has been previously introduced. They aid memorization through the association of visual images and words, and help pronunciation by giving children frequent opportunities to listen to and say new words.
- Children can also match word cards to the flashcards on the board if it is appropriate to familiarize them with the written forms of new words as part of the procedure.

