Activate:
Games for Learning American English
What Someone Does

Start: we're pumped!
in a movie theater
at the beach
on vacation
in a car
in New York
at a birthday party

on a tropical island
in China
in a kitchen
on a large ship
at a wedding
go back to start

in English class
when watching a scary film
when hungry
when in love
when late for an appointment
when sick

finish
WE ❤ FUN
Board Games
### Snack Time!
1. Which of the snacks on the card is the healthiest? Which is the least healthy?
2. Which snacks are salty? Which are sweet? Which are crunchy? Which are soft?
3. Which of the snacks do you like to eat? Why?
4. What other snacks do you like to eat? What do they look like?
5. Which snacks are easy to carry with you? Why?

### Let’s Play!
1. Which games on the card do you play as a team? Which do you play as an individual?
2. Which game is the easiest to play? Which one is the most difficult to play? Why?
3. Choose one game. What do you need to play it? Why do you need it?
4. Which games do you like to watch? Why?
5. Which games do you like to play? Why?
6. Which games have you never played before? Which games would you like to play? Why?

### A Trip to the Zoo
1. Which animal on the card is your favorite? Why?
2. Tell me more about one animal. Where does it live? What does it eat?
3. Which animals have you seen in real life? When and where did you see them?
4. What are three other animals you might see in the zoo? What do they look like?
5. Which animal would you like to speak to? What would you say to the animal?

### Weather
1. Which is your favorite type of weather? Why?
2. How do you get ready for school on a rainy day?
3. What can you do outside on a snowy day?
4. Choose one type of weather. What are three fun things to do on that kind of day?
5. Choose another type of weather. What clothes do you wear outside in that weather?
6. What climate would you like to live in? Why?
“ONE SIZE FITS ALL” - great for socks and hugs. Not so great for beliefs...or education.
No Dice? No Problem!
No Dice? No Problem!

Dice Template
No Dice? No Problem!
Game Pieces
Which One Would the World Be Better Without... Why?

START: Let's do it!

BAD LUCK! GO BACK 5 SPACES!

TV, MOSQUITOES, DIVORCE

FINISH

ZOOs, VIDEO GAMES, PRISONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LOCKS, MAKE UP

Which One Would the World Be Better Without... Why?

MICE, CARS, CORN

WINE, MONEY, BOOKS

PLASTIC, FIRE, OIL

MILK, DANCING, GRASS

CLOWNS, PIANOS, WINTER

CITIES, MOUNTAINS, BEACHES

LAWS, BORDERS, SHOPPING MALLS

THE INTERNET, BANKS, ROMANTIC FILMS

SUGAR, GUNS, HOSPITALS

HIP HOP, VOLCANOES, POLICE

TRAFFIC, COMPUTERS, DOCTORS

CELL PHONES, FOOTBALL, PETS

PLASTIC BAGS, HUNTING, CLOCKS

HANDSHAKES, MILKSHAKES, CANDLES

BAD LUCK! GO BACK 3 SPACES!
## Variations for Which One Would the World Be Better Without...Why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variation</th>
<th>Directions</th>
<th>“Player Talk”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My Ranking</td>
<td>Have students rank the three items in terms of their importance in their own lives, with one being most important.</td>
<td>Doctors are the most important because they save lives, computers are the next most important because many people use them for work and to share information. I do not think traffic is important because it causes many people to be late.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My Ranking:
Most Important in My Life
WE ❤ FUN
....easy fun.
Activate: Games for Learning American English - Board Games

Activate: Games for Learning American English is a collection of games for the language classroom. The games in Activate offer interactive English language practice in a learner-centered, low-stress environment. The board games in Activate follow the paths that the players must follow and the English phrases that the players must produce orally. Each board game has a theme that requires the students to produce certain types of expressions, so they practice a variety of vocabulary, grammar, and patterns, and functional meanings.

Watch a Teaching Tip for this resource.

Downloads

- Board Games Instructions
  - Text (PDF)
- Board Games Template
  - Text (PDF)
The board game *Which One Would the World Be Better Without? Why?* allows students to talk about hypothetical situations in an authentic and engaging way. For this board game, you will find the downloadable game, game instructions, and game variations.

**Find Similar Resources**

- Teach English
- American Culture
- Large Classes
- Motivation
- Integrated Skills
- Book
- Games and Puzzles
- Pairwork and Groupwork
- Learn English
- Authentic Materials
- Materials Development
- Multi-level Classrooms
- Speaking
- Downloadable Material
- Interactive
- Teacher Manual

**Downloads**

- Which One Would the World Be Better Without? Why? Instructions
  - Text (PDF)
- Which One Would the World Be Better Without? Why? Board Game
  - Text (PDF)
Teachers are the best game creators!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Language being practiced?</th>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use A Word</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Do I Know About?</td>
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<td>“at the beach”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>What You Might Find....</td>
<td>“in a superhero’s closet”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name 3…</td>
<td>“of the best things about your country”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have You Ever? Oh, When?</td>
<td>Traveled to another country?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Which One Would the World Be Better Without?</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Me</td>
<td>“I know how to...”</td>
<td>Intermediate + Can be adapted for all levels</td>
<td>Students will be able to talk about themselves.</td>
</tr>
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Have You Ever...?
Oh, When?

Start: We're so ready!
- Have you ever swum in a river?
- Have you ever watched a baseball game?
- Have you ever traveled by train?
- Have you ever traveled to another country?

- Have you ever been to another continent?
- Have you ever cooked dinner for someone?
- Have you ever kissed an animal?
- Have you ever worn a hat?

- Have you ever sung a song in a car?
- Have you ever missed an English lesson?
- Have you ever read a novel in English?
- Have you ever slept outside, under the stars?

- Have you ever eaten really spicy food?
- Bad luck! Go back 10 spaces.
- Have you ever eaten sushi?
- Have you ever borrowed something from someone?

- Have you ever played a piano?
- Have you ever seen a ghost?
- Have you ever climbed a mountain?
- Have you ever lost your cell phone?

Finish
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have You Ever? Oh, When?</td>
<td>Traveled to another country?</td>
<td>Low intermediate +</td>
<td>Students will be able to talk about events that happened in the past, and when.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Clowns, pianos, winter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Would You Rather?</td>
<td>Be able to fly or have</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Game Ideas:

- Daily Routines
  - What type of language would students need to use?
  - What could we put in the game squares?

*Remember: we don’t want to have just one answer per square, we want students to use the language authentically, and to make it personal.*
# Daily Routines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Grid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk the dog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the dishes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a shower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do my homework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Start → Do the dishes → Take a shower → Do my homework → Finish!
Other Game Ideas....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game/Language</th>
<th>Sample Game Squares:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ If I had....</td>
<td>A million dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Rules/Laws</td>
<td>Recycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ How many do you know?</td>
<td>fruits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are you up for a challenge?
Stay Tuned....

Start
A Trip to the Zoo

1. Which animal on the card is your favorite? Why?
2. Tell me more about one animal. Where does it live? What does it eat?
3. Which animals have you seen in real life? When and where did you see them?
4. What are three other animals you might see in the zoo? What do they look like?
5. Which animal would you like to speak to? What would you say to the animal?
6. Imagine you are one of these animals. Which animal would you be? Why?
A Trip to the Zoo

Bear, Elephant, Monkey, Lion, Kangaroo, Giraffe
A Trip to the Zoo

1. Which animal on the card is your favorite? Why?
2. Tell me more about one animal. Where does it live? What does it eat?
3. Which animals have you seen in real life? When and where did you see them?
4. What are three other animals you might see in the zoo? What do they look like?
5. Which animal would you like to speak to? What would you say to the animal?
6. Imagine you are one of these animals. Which animal would you be? Why?
This section contains 13 additional games that students can play with the Picture This cards that are included with this book (and with the cards that you create on your own). Some of these variations are designed primarily to help students relax, improve their speaking fluency, and have fun speaking English without worrying about accuracy. Others require students to pay close attention to English, but in a low-stress, game-like context. Each game below includes a brief description, step-by-step instructions for playing the game, examples of player talk, and in some cases, additional variations of the game.

**Game 2: ABCs**

ABCs provides students with vocabulary practice by asking them to think of vocabulary words that are related to many different topics. Students use Picture This cards as a starting point for each topic. Then they come up with related vocabulary items that begin with many letters of the alphabet. This game works well as a whole-class activity or as a competition among groups.

**Instructions**

1. Decide if you will complete this activity as a whole class or in small groups. If you are using groups, have students sit in groups of 2–4.

2. Write the letters of the alphabet (A to Z) in a vertical list on the blackboard, or have players do this individually on a piece of paper.

3. Show the class the picture side of one card. You may need to walk around the classroom so that all students can see the pictures clearly.

4. Have players name the pictures on the card. Write the names next to the appropriate letter in the ABC list based on the first letter of the word.

5. Together, think of examples beginning with other letters of the alphabet. How many can the class think of in 5 minutes?

Optional: To make this game more competitive, divide students into two or more teams. See which team can fill in the most ABC examples in 5 minutes.
### ABCs

**“Player Talk” in ABCs**

_Eat Your Vegetables_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Vegetable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>asparagus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>broccoli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>carrot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>eggplant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>green beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>J</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>kale</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>lentil</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>mushroom</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>onion</td>
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<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>peas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>radish</td>
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<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>spinach</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>tomato</td>
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<td>U</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>yam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>zucchini</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A-Z Feelings

Feelings

Angry
B
Confused
D
E
F
Sad, Surprised
Tired
Happy
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

Happy, Sad, Angry, Surprised, Tired, Confused

American English
Game 11: Same & Different

*Same & Different* provides students with an opportunity to use their background knowledge about the items on a *Picture This* card and create descriptions that compare and contrast two of the items on the card.

**Instructions**

1. Have students (the players) sit in groups of 3-4. Choose an amount of time for the activity.

2. The group chooses one player to be the Timer making sure he or she can see a clock. The Timer takes a card and carries it to his or her group.

3. The Timer chooses two of the pictures on the card and shows them to the group.

4. The remaining players think about how the two pictures are similar and different. They name as many similarities and differences as they can in 1 minute while the Timer keeps track of the time.

5. After 1 minute, the group should choose a new Timer. The new Timer should choose two different pictures on the card or turn in the card and get another.

6. End the game after the specified amount of time.

Note: Depending on the students’ level, groups can list words or phrases, or they can use complete sentences.

Optional: To make the game competitive, have each group compete with another group. Decide if the groups will list words or phrases or write complete sentences. Have groups write their comparisons on paper. After a specified amount of time (2 or 3 minutes), have the groups exchange papers and discuss the similarities and differences of the items that they have compared. Note that this option requires multiple copies of the *Picture This* cards.
Beverages: Tea, Milk, Soda, Juice, Water, Coffee

Let's Play!: Volleyball, Baseball, Tennis Ball, Basketball, Football, Soccer Ball

Personal Items: Glasses, Purse, Wallet, Mobile Phone, Comb, Watch

Transportation: Motorcycle, Car, Train, Airplane, Bicycle, Bus
Activate: Picture This

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Activate: Games for Learning American English is a collection of games for the language classroom. The games in Activate offer interactive English language practice in a learner-centered, low-stress environment. Picture This cards are a set of cards that can be used for a variety of conversation and word games in English classes.

Format: Text
Class Management Game Tip #1

Always in groups
How many students do you have?
Let’s do the math...

50 students...

11 Groups of 4.  2 groups of 3

= 13 groups
How many “Picture This” game cards do we need for these 50 students?
Class Management Game Tip #2

You don’t need as many materials as you think
Classroom Management Game Tip #3

Have a system for rotating materials
Use a Timer... Or don’t...
Class Management Game Tip #4

Think in terms of group bases
Class Management Game Tip #5

Attitude

“We will find a way. If we can’t find a way, we’ll make one”
At the zoo
1. lions
2. elephants
3. monkeys
4. zebras
5. cages
6. bears

In the sky
clouds
birds
the sun
the moon
airplanes
rainbow

At the beach
sand
seashells
umbrellas
towels
bathing suits
waves

Learn more in the
“Activate: Games for Learning American English”
Webinar Part 2!
Are you up for a challenge?
Stay Tuned....
Activate: Games for Learning American English - Board Games

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Activate: Games for Learning American English is a collection of games for the language classroom. The games in Activate offer interactive English language practice in a learner-centered, low-stress environment. The board games in Activate show the paths that the players must follow and the English phrases that the players must produce orally. Each board game has a theme that requires the students to produce certain types of expressions, so they practice a variety of vocabulary, grammatical patterns, and functional meanings.

Watch a Teaching Tip for this resource.
Let the Games Begin!

Submit your board games to:
americanenglish@state.gov