





[About](#) | [Join](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact](#)
[Training](#) | [Courses](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Forums](#) | [Articles](#) | [Guest](#) | [Earth](#) | [Lesson Plans](#) | [Reviews](#) | [Products](#) | [Links](#) | [Glossary](#)
[TEFL.net](#) : [ESL Lesson Plans](#) : [Classroom Ideas](#) : [Pronunciation](#) : 15 top fun pronunciation games

Classroom Ideas

[Business English](#)
[Cultural](#)
[Email](#)
[Exams](#)
[Fillers and Warmers](#)
[Functional](#)
[Games](#)
[Grammar](#)
[Listening](#)
[Music](#)
[Pronunciation](#)
[Quizzes](#)
[Reading](#)
[Speaking](#)
[Teaching](#)
[Telephone](#)
[Vocabulary](#)
[Writing](#)
[Young Learners](#)

SHARE   

RSS FEED   

Ads by Google

[TEFL Certificate - Online](#)

Azusa offers online certificates to Teach English as a Foreign Language
www.APU.edu

[Masters in TESOL Online](#)

Earn your Masters in TESOL Online From U. of Southern California
mat.usc.edu/TESOL

[Oxford Seminars](#)

60-hour in-class TESOL/TEFL certification courses across the US
www.OxfordSeminars.com

[Interactive Games and Fun](#)

Inflatables, Arcade, Casino Nights Photo Booths, Plan-It Interactive
www.interactivegame.com

[Accent Reduction Software](#)

Systematic method to help U improve pronunciation & reduce accent.
www.PronunciationPatterns.cc

15 top fun pronunciation games

1. *Shadow reading* Students try to speak at exactly the same speed and rhythm as the CD, then try one more time with the sound turned down in the middle of the recording to see if they are still in time when the sound is turned back up. 2. *Syllables snap* Students take turns turning

Alex Case

1. Shadow reading

Students try to speak at exactly the same speed and rhythm as the CD, then try one more time with the sound turned down in the middle of the recording to see if they are still in time when the sound is turned back up.

2. Syllables snap

Students take turns turning over cards with words written on them from their packs. If the two words have the same number of syllables, the first person to say "Snap" and/ or slap their hands down on the cards wins all the cards that have been turned over so far. The person with most cards at the end of the game is the winner. This also works with vowel sounds in one syllable words and word stress.

3. Word stress pellmanism

Pellmanism (= pairs/ memory game) can be played with the same cards as Snap, but is a slower game. All the cards are spread face down on the table and students take turns trying to find matching pairs of cards by which syllable is stressed. This is easier if all of the words have the same number of syllables. This game can also be played with students matching by vowel sounds or number of syllables.

4. The yes?! game

Students try to give as many different feelings and meanings to one word or sentence as they can by varying the stress and intonation. The other students guess what feeling they were trying to convey.

5. Yes. Yes! YES!

Similar to The Yes?! Game, students compete to say a word or sentence in the most extreme way they can, e.g. they take turns being as angry as possible and the angriest person wins.

6. Sounds brainstorming board race

Teams of students try to write as many words with the sound they have been given on the board as quickly as possible. Each team member can only write one word before they pass the pen onto someone else, but they can prompt each other. This also works for number of syllables and word stress.

7. Minimal pairs stations

Students show which of two words they think they have heard by racing to touch one of the things that the teacher or class decided will be used to represent that thing, e.g. the table for /l/ or the chair for /r/. More active classes can run and touch things like the door and the window, while shyer classes can just raise their right and left hands.

8. Sounds same or different

In this variation on Minimal Pairs Stations, rather than indicating which sound they hear, students indicate if they think two words you say have the same or different pronunciation. This is good for homophones as well as minimal pairs. The easiest way to explain the task is to give students pieces of paper with "Same" and "Different" written on for them to hold up or race to slap.

9. Sounds same or different pairwork

You can add lots more speaking practice, both controlled pron practice and free conversation, to Sounds Same or Different by giving students worksheets with the words you want them to compare highlighted on Student A and

Student B sheets. First they read out just the word to decide if the pron is the same or not, then they read out their different sentences to see if the context gives them any more clues. When they have finished, they can spell the words out to each other and then look at each other's sheets.

10. Tell me when I'm odd

In this variation of Sounds Same or Different, students listen to a whole string of words with the same sound (e.g. the same vowel sound) and race to indicate the first word they hear that is different.

11. Silently mouthing

Students try to identify the word or sentence that the teacher or a student is mouthing silently. This is good for awareness of mouth position for English sounds.

12. Sounds puzzle

You can get the logical parts of their brain working during pronunciation practice by hiding the sounds that make up a word that is the answer to the puzzle. Students find the sounds in common in each pair of words, put all the sounds together (mixed up or in order) and write the word they make.

13. Pronunciation maze

This game also allows them to use a little bit of logical problem solving to help with a pronunciation task. In a grid, write a string of words with a common sound, e.g. the same vowel sound, between the top left corner and the bottom right corner. In all the other squares, write in words that people might think have the same sound but don't. Students then have to get from the starting point to the end by the right route. After they have finished, drill the words on the right route, and then all the surrounding ones with different sounds.

14. Common pron pictures

Students draw lines between the pairs of words that share the same sound on their sheet, and see what kind of picture is made by those lines. This can take a lot of preparation, but is easier if you just have the thing they draw as a letter of the alphabet, usually an upper case one as there are more straight lines.

15. No sounds listening comprehension

Students try to identify which sentence in a dialogue the teacher or a student has chosen without them using any English sounds. This can be done by waving your arms around to show sentence stress or intonation, or beating out the rhythm on the sentence on the table or your palm.

[XHTML 1.0](#)

Contributed by Alex Case | March 2008

Alex Case is TEFL.net Reviews Editor and author of the popular blog [TEFLtastic](#).

14 Comments on "15 top fun pronunciation games"

1.  *fatiha* Says:
[May 14th, 2008 at 07:14](#)

I find all the activities motivating and relevant to our syllabus. But we have overcrowded classes and I see that we cannot involve all the learners in one lesson. Time management is another problem for us. Too many things to teach and too many pupils to involve. Any teaching tips? Thanks in advance.

2.  *elena* Says:
[May 27th, 2008 at 02:56](#)

the 15 tops games are good for students

3.  *ha* Says:
[September 22nd, 2008 at 17:53](#)

Hi! Ur sharing is really useful for me. Have u got any games on stress? I'm glad if u give me some. Thanks

4.  *elizabeth* Says:
[October 11th, 2008 at 19:41](#)

good ideas, thanks!

Another game I pull out when I have 10 or 15 minutes free is a minimal pairs bingo. I made a list of minimal pairs that the group has trouble with (tree/three, light/right, ship/sheep) and made a set of bingo cards with them. To make it go faster, the squares are only 4x4, but not every word is on every card! For the first round, I read the words. Once someone gets a bingo, I check their answers, and then they get to be the caller.



5. [Alex Case](#) Says:
[October 16th, 2008 at 00:58](#)

Thanks Elizabeth, that is a nice one.

Ha, stress is another thing that usually needs worksheets (see Pronunciation Games by Mark Hancock for many great ideas), but you can use "stress minimal pairs" like thirTEEN THIRTy or an INcrease/ to inCREASE and use games like bingo, students throwing something at the side of the whiteboard they think has the right stress on, or brainstorming words with a certain stress pattern.

Hope that helps



6. [lamia](#) Says:
[October 18th, 2008 at 21:25](#)

need some jokes in which the word stress is important. I mean when a word is not stressed correctly gives another meaning. A dialogue or a short story to show to my students the importance of word stress.
 thanks



7. [Jennifer Lawrence](#) Says:
[February 22nd, 2009 at 11:50](#)

Dear Mr. Case,

I enjoyed reading your game activities and can't wait to start using some of them. The "Yes!" and "Yes, YES!" games sound like lots of fun. I think most of my students will enjoy playing.

Thanks!



8. [Madeleine Barthelmess](#) Says:
[June 2nd, 2009 at 17:34](#)

Great activities!!! My Ss loved the games specially the yes game!!



9. [rhoda kayongo](#) Says:
[October 14th, 2009 at 03:15](#)

i would love to try out these games for my classes, but they sound practical only that they lack examples.



10. [Bowie Brannen](#) Says:
[October 18th, 2009 at 09:36](#)

all are really useful n i gonna try all of these for my students

Seriously! Wonderful

they'll improve a lot i 'pose

11.  *Alex Case* Says:
[November 20th, 2009 at 11:20](#)

Hi Rhoda

Not many on here yet, but some examples of worksheets for pronunciation here:

<http://www.tefl.net/alexcase/worksheets/pronunciation/>

12.  *salwa* Says:
[May 31st, 2010 at 10:19](#)

thank y a lot y help me in my teahing

13.  *Octavio* Says:
[May 31st, 2010 at 22:33](#)

Hello, in my case I am studying to be an English professor, I am in my second year of the career, and all these activities are excellent. They give different options to work with students, and could change the way English in taught in my country. Greetings from Costa Rica and thank you very much. Pura vida!!!

14.  *Rod.Bennett* Says:
[July 14th, 2010 at 04:07](#)

As a student teacher of ESL It will definitely come in handy during class.Thanks

Please let us know your thoughts in the comments section below

<input type="text"/>	Name (required)
<input type="text"/>	Mail (will not be published) (required)
<input type="text"/>	Website
 <input type="text"/>	
<input type="button" value="Submit Comment"/>	

Follow us on Twitter	Training FAQ	TEFL Helpdesk	TEFLtastic
	Training Forum	TEFL Forums	TEFL FAQ
	Qualifications	Worksheet Wizard	Site Map
	20 Teaching Tips	ESL Worksheets	Contact
	TEFL Glossary	ESL Games	Terms
	Find a TEFL Course	Classroom Ideas	Privacy
	ESL Jobs Offered	Activities	Join Free
© 1998-2010 TEFL Net All Rights Reserved	Jobs Forum	TEFL Articles	Submit Content
	Post Jobs Ad	Resources	Post Job Ad
	More about jobs...	Admin	Create an Ad