



Handout: Vocabulary and spelling teaching activities

Vocabulary

- Use flash cards of the words on the *Cambridge English: Flyers* vocabulary list. Use these for vocabulary revision and recycling. Flash cards can be made or collected from any pictures you have available, e.g.:
 - accompanying coursebooks
 - online, for example:
 - <http://www.eslflashcards.com>
 - <http://www.esl-kids.com>
 - magazines
 - draw your own!
- <http://quizlet.com/> allows you to make your own flash cards and has interactive games learners can use at home or on the IWB.
- **Alphabet (A–Z) races of topic vocabulary:** choose a topic from the *Cambridge English: Flyers* topic list in the handbook and ask learners to think of an associated word for each letter of the alphabet (or as many as they can).
- **STOP/Scattergories:** set five categories, e.g. place; school; clothes; work; the world around us. Give learners a letter, e.g. 'B'. Learners try to think of a word beginning with 'B' for each category, e.g. bus stop, board, belt, businessman, bridge. Once they have found a word for each category, they shout 'stop'. If they are correct they win a point for each correct word.

Spelling

- Spelling doesn't just have to be learned in spelling tests but can include **physical activities**, e.g.:
 - taking the class outside, giving them chalk instead of a pen and using the wall as the board. Then in teams, one student races to the wall and writes a given word.
 - using a water bottle (one which has a nozzle so that the students can use the water stream as a pen) to write a word on tarmac or sand means the candidates are using their whole body and reinforces the spelling through kinaesthetic learning. If you have access to sand, a stick and the sand also work well.



- **Scrambled words:** use sets of Scrabble tiles or letters on small pieces of card. Give learners the letters which make a word, and a clue to the word. This could be a picture or a definition, or even a gapped sentence. The team which makes the word fastest is the winner. For a stronger group, instead of organising individual words beforehand, you could give the students all the Scrabble tiles and then tell them to remove certain letters, e.g. '5 Ss, 4 Es, 2 Ls, 1 P and 1 N' Then using these letters they must make a word.
- Set **interactive online spelling games** for homework, e.g. <http://quizlet.com/>. This allows you to make your own flash cards and has an interactive activity called 'space race' which tests spelling. If you make a mistake, it allows you to copy it and so reinforces the spelling.
- Have a **spelling bee**. Give the students a word and ask them to say and spell the word.