

Dictionary Game

Instructions

1. Decide which words you are going to use in the game. Write the words on the board in random order. This provides clues for spelling assistance. The number of words used will depend on the time allowed, the abilities of students, and the attention span of the students.
2. Divide the class into three-member teams.
3. Distribute dictionaries to each student.
4. Tell students that they will be looking up words and finding the definition that matches how the word is used in the sentence.
5. The teacher calls out a word and then uses the word in a sentence.
6. All students look up the word in their dictionary.
7. Students may assist others on their team, but may not touch anyone's dictionary, not even members of their team.
8. When every member of a team has found the word and is in agreement of which definition matches how the word was used in the sentence, the entire team stands up. This makes them the team giving answers and eligible for points.
9. Allow time for other teams to find the word also with each team standing when all members have found the word. This not only forces all students to keep looking, but also promotes honesty as any team can be challenged.
10. Call on one member of the winning team to tell the dictionary page number for the word. No points are given for this information, however the page number must be correct or other teams may challenge.
11. Allow time for anyone who has not found the word to use this page number information to assist him or her.
12. If the wrong page number is given, other teams are allowed to challenge by raising their hands. Call on the first team that has all members with hands raised. If the team challenging can give the correct page number, they become the team giving answers and eligible for points.
13. If the wrong page number is given, but no other team challenges, announce that the page number is not correct. Therefore you will move on to the next word on the list. Be sure to return to the original word at a later time in the game.
14. After all students have found the correct page and word, allow for discussion within the team for members to agree on which definition matches the way the word was used in the sentence.
15. Call on a different member of the winning team to read the definition that matches how the word was used in the sentence.
16. If the answer is correct, award the team one point. If the answer is not correct, other teams may challenge. Follow the same challenge procedure as described above.
17. Award one point to the team that successfully reads the correct definition.
18. Repeat the procedure with the next word.

Suggested words and sentences

1. bill (as in making a law) – The **bill** will not be a law until the President signs it.
2. govern – A king will not **govern** our country.
3. branch (as in part of something) - One **branch** of government makes the laws.
4. citizenship – My American **citizenship** gives me the right to be treated fairly.
5. congress – I voted for a person to go to **congress**.
6. capital (as in city) – The **capital** of Florida is Tallahassee.
7. capitol (as in building) – Congress meets in the **capitol** building.
8. state – I live in the **state** of Florida.
9. mayor – Our **mayor** signed a bill making this Clean the Beach month.
10. local – The mayor is the leader of our **local** government.