

Form Class Baseball: A TESL GAME

By ALICE C. PACK

Object: 1) Help students learn the four English form classes (noun, verb, object, adverb) and specific words and their alternate forms.

2) Provide additional practice for students whose native languages do not have these different word forms.

Materials: Sets of cards with one word printed on the front and the additional forms printed on the back.

SAMPLES OF CARD FORMS

Verb persuade

Noun persuasion
Adjective persuasive
Adverb persuasively

Noun respect

Verb respect
Adjective respectful
Adverb respectfully

Adjective beautiful

Noun beauty
Verb beautify
Adverb beautifully

Where there are no English forms for some classes a line should follow the class given.

SAMPLE CARD FORMS

Verb refuse

Noun refusal
Adjective _____
Adverb _____

Adjective adventurous

Noun adventure adventurer
Verb _____
Adverb adventurously

Different colors could be used for each group on the front of the card, i.e. yellow for nouns, white for verbs, etc. The size of the cards used would depend on the teacher. As the pitcher calls the word, large cards could be displayed for the whole class to see; small cards could be read aloud or printed on the board by the pitcher.

Playing the game: As far as possible regular baseball rules are followed, with two teams of nine players each. If desired, an umpire may be selected to call balls, strikes, and outs. The

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catcher signals the pitcher the type of throw (verb, noun, adjective, or adverb), then the player who is up is given a word by the pitcher. If the batter gives one correct form it is a base. Two correct forms are two bases and a home run is made when all three forms for one word are correct. A player who tries a word form and misses has one strike called. If he is not sure of the word and wants to pass, the first baseman gives the correct form. If this is correct, the play is a strike, but if it is missed, it is a ball.

The second baseman calls the second form

for the same player (if he passes again) then the third baseman, the shortstop, and the fielders in that order. Thus a player may strike out, make a base on balls, have a one-or-two-base hit, or make a home run for his team.

Each side is retired after three strikes, and batters take their regular batting order. Nine inning games are usually played with extra innings for tie games; the game may be called because of rain (discretion of the teacher) or darkness (allotted time over.)

If classes are small or if there are twenty or more students in the group, teams could have five players on each team-- catcher, pitcher, and first, second, and third basemen. Larger groups would have more than one game playing at the same time.

If room permits, the diamond should be indicated in the classroom and students go from base to base. When the room is small, a diagram should be placed on the black board and the player's progress indicated.

This game must proceed rapidly so that

students don't get bored. If desired a time limit might be imposed and a strike called if an answer isn't given within the time set.

This game could be played without cards by advanced students. In this case the pitcher would select the original word form from his own vocabulary. A non-native English speaking umpire would probably need a reference list of words or help from the teacher.

The following TESL Readers emphasize the English form classes and have exercises and/or specific word form charts.

Danielson, Dorothy and Rebecca Hayden, *Readings in English for Students as a Second Language*, Prentice-Hall, 1961.

Grindell, Robert, Leonard R. Marelli, and Harvey Nadler, *American Readings*. McGraw-Hill, 1964.

Taylor, Grant, *American English Reader*. McGraw-Hill, 1960.

Words might be obtained from the charts and the game might give additional help to classes using the readers.



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