TESL GAME -

CONNECTING CLAUSES

Students enjoy playing this easily constructed game. After playing the game, students listen attentively to teacher explanations of missed items and replays always show marked improvement in the construction of the sentences.
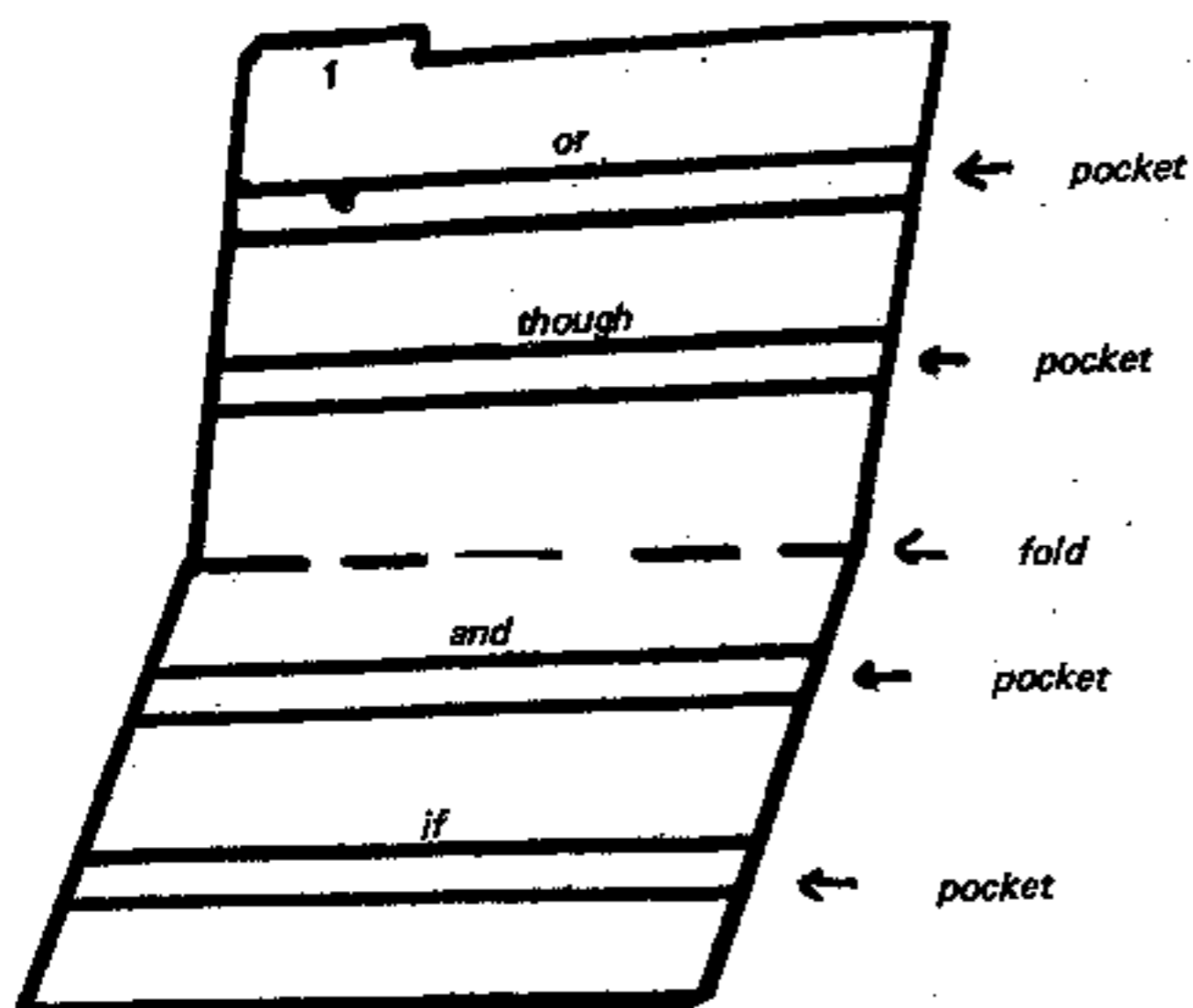
PURPOSE:

To teach students to combine simple sentences using the right English connections. Correct punctuation and capitalization are part of the learning. Students also have practice in using correct verb tenses in connecting clauses.

CONSTRUCTION:

Number the six manilla folders and make four pockets on each by taping 1 1/2 inch strips to the folders.

Print one of the coordinators or subordinators in the center above each pocket. There will be four on each of the six folders.

Completed file folder

MATERIALS:

3 x 5 cards, Different colors are used for each set.

Manilla folders, 6 for each set. Extra manilla folders for pocket strips.

Masking tape or cellophane tape.

20 students could play with five sets - This would take 30 file folders (six for each set) and about 80 cards in each of five different colors. (There is no limit to the number of clauses used, but there should be some choice and more than enough to fill the folders).

LIST OF CONNECTORS

Coordinators	Subordinators	
and	although	as
but	after	though
so	because	so
yet	before	therefore
for	since	till
;	unless	while
nor	if	them
or	until	even though

So can be used with a comma (so) as a coordinator or without the comma (so) as a subordinator.

LIST OF CLAUSES

Use any simple clause-many should have he, she, and they and others John, Mary, people, the men, etc. for practice in pronoun agreement.

Be sure to include:
1. different tenses in verbs and modals.
2. clauses with modal first for use after nor

(i.e. can he drive a car, can she play the piano)

3. Negative clauses for use as the first clause with nor or even though, and for use either as the first or the last clause with but.

Type simple clauses on each card (include capitals and all punctuation marks). Each should be duplicated on the various colors. Many of the clauses are typed in different ways i.e.
1. He likes girls,
2. he likes girls.
3. He likes girls

1. They like him,
2. they   like him.
3. They like him

1. Mary went to town,
2. Mary went to town.
3. Mary went to town

In these examples 1 and 3 must be used as the first clause and 2 as the final clause because of punctuation and capitalization.

DIRECTIONS:

Divide the class into groups of not more than 4 students to a group.

(Random numbering might be used to select teams, but care should be taken that all groups have some players of matched English ability and that one team does not have all the top students).

Time is announced for game length and each group is given the set of cards and index folder number one. Each group decides together what sentences they want to construct. When students work together they often correct each other's errors and in addition have practice in oral communication and interaction.

When satisfied with the sentences in the first folder one member of the group turns in the folder. They receive folder no. 2 and proceed to complete it. When 2 is finished it is turned in and no. 3 is started. If all the sentences in a folder are correct, the group receives 25 points. (5 for each sentence **and** a bonus of 5)

If they are not all correct, the group receives 5 for each correct sentence. (For advanced students there might be minus points for errors). Players should be notified 5 min. before time ends. When the time set at the beginning is reached all folders are called in and all scores are totaled and winners announced.

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mary can't sing **nor** can she play the piano.

Mary can't sing **even though** she can play the piano.

John likes Mary, **but** she doesn't like him.

He is going to town **because** he has some money.

Mr. Jones left yesterday **although** he wanted to stay.

John likes Mary ; she doesn't like him.

He went to town **since** I came home.

An easier version of the game for beginning students could be to have either of the clauses printed on the folder with students supplying one clause only.