

VOCABULARY BINGO

- A TESL GAME

by Cecelia Vaioleti

This is a game which could be used as a tool for vocabulary practice, a cumulative exercise, or just for an interesting diversion from the normal routine. The teacher makes up a set of Bingo cards (see diagram below) with selected vocabulary words taken from previous oral, reading, and/or writing exercises. Put one word in each square on the card, varying each card so that there are not more than two or three identical cards. Students then would not be likely to repeatedly select the same card.

There are two suggested ways of playing the game.

(1)

The teacher makes up a set of word definitions. Each definition should be on a separate strip of paper. These should be on the level of the students' understanding. Example:

a hard outer covering, as on an animal, egg, or nut.

The students who have "a shell" printed on their cards should place a marker there.

(2)

The teacher makes up a set of sentences with the key words left out. These are written on strips of paper.

Example:

Jack found — — — on the beach.

Again, the student would mark "a shell".

These cards may be adapted to noun practice, as shown here (notice that the articles are always included with the count nouns), a verb practice, prepositions, etc. The markers could be anything from small pebbles to candy. Some kind of point system could be arranged by the teacher if a competitive situation were desired. The teacher could either read the strips of paper to the class or if reading ability permits let

each student draw a strip from a bag and read his strip to the class.

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The first student to have marked a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal line of five spaces across the card wins the game. Any prize or reward is left to the discretion of the teacher.

B I N G O				
1	a doll			
2			a shell	
3				
4		a library		
5	an apple			

This game might also be used for practice in word form classes. For example the word beauty might be drawn and students having any forms of this word (i.e. beautiful, beautify, beautifully,) would mark their cards.