

## Vocabulary or Grammar Hot Seat



Speaking  
Vocabulary



Listening  
Grammar



Reading  
Pronunciation



Writing  
Warmer/Icebreaker

This is a lively activity which gets students to enthusiastically review grammar or vocabulary that's already been taught, either in a previous lesson or earlier in that lesson. It can be used as a warmer or at any other point in the lesson. It is based on a popular game where someone gets a teammate to guess a word from clues but they are not allowed to say the actual word as a clue. In this version, students try to get their teammate to guess a short sentence. Below are some sample simple sentences for some grammar points and vocabulary.



- I have seen Titanic. (present perfect)
- If I was home, I would be happy. (2<sup>nd</sup> conditional)
- I have put off my dentist appointment. (phrasal verb)
- He has a splitting headache (vocabulary/collocation)

This is a particularly useful activity for getting students to focus on structures. One student will be in the hot seat and their team members will be giving them clues as to the words in the sentence. To do that effectively, they should focus on the part of speech of each word in the sentence. This will draw their attention to the structure of both grammatical and lexical chunks. Even if this activity is used for reviewing vocabulary consisting of individual words, contextualizing the word in a sentence gives students some ideas of how the word is used. To illustrate how students could focus on the parts of speech, here are some examples of clues that could be given for the sentence "I have seen Titanic".

- first word, a pronoun, first person singular
- second, an auxiliary verb, also means to possess
- verb, past participle, what you do with your eyes
- a famous ship that sank – it was made into a film

### Materials

- list of sentences featuring target language

### Procedure

1. Put two chairs in front of the board spaced well apart and with their backs to the board.
2. Put students into two teams and get each team to assemble in front of one of the chairs.
3. Explain that each team will send a member to the chair. They will be sitting with their backs to the board. You will write a sentence on the board which the students in the hot seats cannot look at. The other members of the team will give their teammate clues for each word in the sentence without saying any of the actual words. The first student to recite the entire sentence correctly will win a point for their team. Remind them to focus on the parts of speech.
4. Write the first sentence near the top of the board. Start the game.
5. When one of the students correctly recites the sentence, put a mark on their team's side of the board to indicate a point. Then write the next sentence on the board below the first one. Continue with two new students in the hot seats.