

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity

Language Focus

Modal verbs of possibility

'could', 'may' and 'might'

Modal verb of certainty

'must'

Aim

To guess objects from the noise they make using modal verbs of possibility and certainty.

Preparation

For this activity, you will need a screen and some objects that make a recognizable sound when you use them.

Level

Elementary

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

Here is an enjoyable guessing game to help students learn how to use the modal verbs 'could', 'may' and 'might' for possibility and 'must' for certainty.

Procedure

Begin by putting up a screen at the front of the class.

Behind the screen, put some objects that make a recognizable sound when you use them, without letting the students see what they are.

Invite one student to operate the various objects behind the screen.

Next, divide the class into two teams.

The student behind the screen operates one of the objects.

The teams then take it in turns to guess what they think the object could be.

Each time a team makes a guess, they use a modal verb of possibility by saying 'It could/may/might be a/an...'

If a team is certain what the object is, the team uses a modal verb of certainty by saying 'It must be a/an...'

Teams are allowed one guess per turn.

If a team guesses correctly using a modal verb of possibility, they score one point.

If a team guesses correctly using a modal verb of certainty, they score two points.

If a team makes an incorrect guess with a modal verb of certainty, they lose two points.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

As a variation, students can play the game with smells by using things like lavender, mint, garlic, coffee, etc. You could also play this game with touch by having different fabrics or objects.

In both of these variants, the team players who are guessing would be blindfolded.

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