Teacher’s Notes

22 | Using Competitions in ELT
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Preparing a competition

Choose a learning goal and language that the class has studied. Preview every question and answer. Decide the response time, scoring rule and number of audio or video plays before the activity. Plan a short unscored practice round.

For nine learners, the suggested arrangement is three teams of three. For larger classes, add small teams. Balance the groups discreetly and rotate the reader, recorder and spokesperson. Allow private thinking before discussion.

A suggested short lesson sequence

Preparation: explain and practise the rules. Competition: run a short round with the same response window for all teams. Review: reveal the answers, ask for reasons and collect new examples. Adjust the length to your class.

Avoid elimination. Accept justified alternatives when a question is ambiguous. Recognise helpful teamwork as well as correct answers. Keep the learning review even when the round needs to finish early.

The numbered Excel examples

08_Excel_Mustafa_Yucedal contains the original 01_mustafa_yucedal_1a.xlsx. The workbook has two sheets, answer-entry areas, totals and ranking formulas. Its labels distinguish scoring type A, a variable score related to correct teams, from type B, a predetermined fixed score. Preserve a copy before entering a new class’s answers.

Acknowledgement: Excel scoring file by Mustafa Yücedal. Halis Bereket encouraged him to prepare it because he trusted his abilities. We share it with appreciation as a reminder of their work together.

This is an original archive example, not a newly repaired workbook. Old external workbook references and invalid defined-name references remain. Its formula behaviour has not been verified in desktop Excel. Open without updating unavailable links, and check known answers and totals before classroom use.

09_Excel_Written_Test contains the original 04_vmpetition.xlsx. Its answer key belongs to the original full test in 15, not automatically to the shortened five-question demonstration in 10. For the short demonstration, use the answer record and key supplied in 10.

The written test demonstration

10_Written_Test contains a new short presentation and a printable answer sheet. Five questions come from the supplied 04_vmpetition.pptx, using original questions 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8. The short version renumbers them 1 to 5. Key: 1 A, 2 C, 3 D, 4 A, 5 B. No listening is required.

This vocabulary and grammar is more suitable for learners who already know the target language than for young beginners. Adapt it to your class. Collect all answers before revealing the answer slides. Ask for one explanation and one new sentence.

The original full test has some items needing review. Original question 5 can permit different tenses depending on context. Original question 15 lists “will” and “is going to”, although the key chooses the latter. Original question 4 uses “stationer” for a shop definition, for which “stationer’s” is clearer. Check the original key and accept justified alternatives before reusing it.

Other archive examples

11, 12, 13 and 14 contain original general knowledge, vocabulary, video and listening files. These show different competition formats. The original media, animations and links have been retained rather than reconstructed. Test playback on the teaching computer.

Some original files contain old links to local Excel files, answer sheets or media. A referenced answersheet.xls was not present in the upload. Use the included printable answer sheet for the short demonstration. Numbered folders preserve original basenames where linked files need to stay together.

The general knowledge questions are archive material. Check dated facts before reuse. The video and listening tasks need their matching media, so a format example alone is not a complete playback test.

Participant design task

In small groups, design three questions for a known class. State the learning goal, team roles, response method and score. Include a checked key and one follow-up speaking or writing task. Demonstrate one question and revise unclear wording after feedback.

Promo video

The promo presentation contains seven editable slides and narration in the slide notes. Record the narration from 06. Add your preferred two extra seconds to the normal opening and closing hold. Those extra holds can be silent. The background illustration also appears as a separate PNG. Audio is not embedded in these new presentations.