

Lesson 1: Spaceship Fridge-Magnet Poetry

Rationale

The purpose of this activity is for students to practice using the vocabulary that appears in the game, and to add a basic collection of articles (the, a, an), pronouns (I, he, she, it, we), and determiners (this, that), prepositions (of, to, for, beneath, on, around, about etc...) This will increase their comfort with the words when it comes to using them in gameplay. Remaining true to the playful and absurd nature of the game, this lesson enables students to create funny poetry.

What you need

Basic Version:

- ★ 1 pair scissors/group
- ★ 1 marker/ student or selection of colours
- ★ thick white paper (cardstock) - cut approximately 1.5" x 4" (begin with 40/group but have more on hand)
- ★ alternatively, regular photocopy paper can be used
- ★ *Note:* this can be a measuring exercise where students cut their own paper, but ideally the rectangles should be straight
- ★ an example (see Appendix B)
- ★ 1 printed list of vocabulary words for Spaceteam ESL (see appendix A)
- ★ 1 ziplock bag or envelope/student

Preferred Version:

- ★ scissors
- ★ white glue
- ★ markers

- ★ thick white paper (cardstock) - cut approximately 1.5" x 4" (begin with 40/group but have more on hand)
- ★ *Note:* this can be a measuring exercise where students cut their own paper, but ideally the rectangles should be straight
- ★ pieces of magnet (can be found at dollar stores, art supply stores, stationary stores, or cut up old magnets)
- ★ anything flat and made of metal (old cookie tin lids or boxes, serving trays)
- ★ ideally, attach the piece of metal to a wall and label with sticky notes numbered according to how many groups there will be in the class or students can use at their table
- ★ an example (see below)
- ★ printed list of vocabulary words from Spaceteam ESL
- ★ a ziplock bag or envelope

Prepare an example:

- ★ create your own poem on a piece of paper using words from any of the Spaceteam ESL vocabulary lists and any pronouns, articles, prepositions, or determiners you would like to add
- ★ write your poem one word per piece of 1.5" x 4" paper with a marker
- ★ you can trim your pieces of paper to the size of the word
- ★ add a small piece of magnet to the back of each word
- ★ attach the poem to a piece of metal
- ★ (See Appendix B for photos of examples)

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Set-up

- ★ students can work in groups of 4 - assign each group a number
- ★ in a box or bag/group or pile/group place each of the items listed above

Objectives

As a result of this lesson students will:

- ★ develop familiarity with the selected level of vocabulary (from Spacetam ESL, see appendix A)
- ★ be able to list examples of pronouns, articles, determiners, and prepositions
- ★ recognize that the game consists mostly of verbs and nouns with some adjectives

Introduction

- ★ students can try playing Spaceteam ESL first, or use this lesson to become more familiar with the vocabulary from the game first
- ★ if students try Spaceteam ESL first, they can also practice using the *practice feature*
- ★ show your example of a magnetic poem (attached to tin ideally) and ask someone to read it
- ★ if they have played Spaceteam ESL, ask them if they recognize the words
- ★ if they have not played, inform them that these words are from a list of vocabulary from a fun game you will be playing called Spaceteam ESL

Activity #1

- ★ explain that each group member can take a turn selecting a word from the list, saying it out loud, and writing it down on one of the pieces of paper
- ★ while the next person is choosing, reading, and writing their word, a piece of magnet can be added to the back and set aside
- ★ once each student has 10 words invite them to bring their collection of words, and play the following game @ the mounted piece of metal with their group number

GAME

- ★ the first group member selects a words from their collection and attaches it to the metal as they say the word
- ★ the second group member does the same
- ★ the group decides when the poem is finished
- ★ the group can play again or return to their desk for the next activity

Activity #2

- ★ ask students to identify some of the words that they wish they had in their collection
- ★ write down each example on the board, and select one and ask if they know what category this word fits into (likely articles (the, a, an), pronouns (I, he, she, it, we), determiners (this, that), and prepositions (of, to, for, beneath, on, around, about, etc.)
- ★ ask, what category of words do you find in the vocabulary lists from the game?

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- verbs (action words), nouns (person, place thing or idea), and adjectives (describe nouns)
- ★ what letter would you add if you wanted to make some things plural? (an s can be cut out on its own to add to any noun)
- ★ Is there any other type of word missing that you think you would like to add to your magnetic word collection?
students may not want to add anything, but there are no adverbs
- ★ invite students now to either cut out their own pieces of paper or hand out more
- ★ each student can now add their own types of words as discussed
- ★ when finished return to metal sheet and play game again
- ★ suggest students write down their favourite poems in their notebooks
- ★ students can add the category of word to the back of the word (noun, verb, etc...)
- ★ students can add patterned borders around their word
- ★ eventually the magnets can be brought home and students encouraged to use on their fridge with family - encourage students to play Spaceteam ESL with their parents
- ★ students can illustrate some of their favourite magnetic poems - can use 4.25" x 5.5" card stock to make postcard size drawings - can add magnets to these
- ★ invite students to invent games, and as they do, to write out the rules and/or explain them to the class

Extensions

- ★ students can illustrate their poems
- ★ students can create a special box or container inside which to store their magnetic poetry
- ★ students should continue to add words from the game to their collection
- ★ invite students to leave poetry on the metal sheets around the room, and to change the poems regularly, or move words around