

Level: B1

Focus: Sounds and Spelling

Activity: Team Game

BACK WORDS

PROCEDURE

1. Write *main* on the board. Elicit that if the word is reversed, you get *name*. In order to do this, you must think in terms of sounds, not letters. *Main* has three sounds - /m/, /ei/, /n/, and *name* is the same three in reverse order. Point out how the spelling is different. In one of the words, the vowel sound /ei/ is spelt -ai-, in the other it is spelt a-e.
2. Divide the class into teams. Explain that you are going to call out words. The teams must work together to decide what the reverse words (the "back words") are. One secretary for each team must write the word down and then raise his/her hand.
3. Read the word of the first team with a raised hand. If it's correct, award them a point. If not, give the other team an opportunity to tell you the word for one point.

Here is a list of "Back Words" you can use in this game:

main – name
tea – eat
niece – seen/scene
keeps – speak
sign – nice
leaf – feel
time – might
stayed – dates
steam – meets
lights – style
fine – knife
say – ace
team – meat
late – tail
nine – nine (this one is a trick question!)