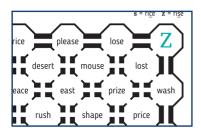


Puzzles Corner to Corner

2.2



TEACHING FOCUS

Versions 1-5: Awareness of the sounds and spellings of /s//z/; /ʃ//ʒ/; /w//j/; /3:/ /ɔː/; /əʊ/ /aʊ/
6: Past tense endings /d/ and /t/ linking to a following vowel

MINIMUM LEVEL

Pre-intermediate

ACTIVITY

Going through a maze

WORKSHEETS

Print one copy of the required version for each student, or pair of students

AUDIO FILES

Background

The phonemes /s/ and /z/ are familiar-looking symbols. However, they often don't correspond to the letters s and z as students might expect. For example, in rise, the s is pronounced /z/, while in rice the /s/ is spelt c. This kind of mismatch between spelling and sound is what make these puzzles challenging.

Presentation

- Write the words rise and rice on the board. Drill the pronunciation asking students to pay attention to the sound of the underlined letters. Explain that these are written /z/ and /s/ in phonetic spellings.
- 2. If your students have difficulty distinguishing rise and rice, explain that /z/ is voiced (you can feel the vibration of the throat) while /s/ is unvoiced. Another difference is that vowel sounds before /s/ are shorter than before /z/.

Activity

- Give out Version 1 of Worksheet 2.2 and explain that the objective is to find routes between the opposite corners from s to s, and then from z to z. Check vocabulary as necessary.
- 2. Explain that students can go from any room to a neighbouring room with a connecting door or corridor. They can only pass through a room if the word in it contains the target sound (/s/ or /z/).
- Go through the first few rooms together as a class (s rice peace east...) and then ask students to continue, individually or in pairs.
- **4.** Check through the *answers* together (see **Key**) or ask students to listen to *Audio 2.2-1* and check.

Key

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s – rice – peace – east – mouse – lost– price – same – sign – face – box – ski – race – backs – fix – cats – s
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z – lose – please – desert – rise – lazy – peas – news – ends – nose – phase – dogs – birds – size – bags – rays – (raise) – **z**