



Level: A2

Focus: Pronunciation - vowel sound /ɜː/ and its spellings

Activity: Competative team game making words

## TURN WORDS

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This is a competitive team game to raise student awareness of the middle vowel /ɜː/ and its various spellings er, ear, ir, or, ur.

### PROCEDURE

1. Write the word 'Turn' on the blackboard. Drill the pronunciation. Focus on the vowel - it doesn't matter if they prefer to pronounce it the American way (with the /r/) or the British way (without the /r/).
2. Write 'Word' on the blackboard. Drill the pronunciation. Point out that the vowel sound is the same - even though the vowel *letter* is different!
3. Give out (or project) TURN WORDS. Explain that the symbol in the middle represents the vowel sound in 'turn' and 'word'. Show how you can make words with this sound with one of the beginnings and one of the endings. For example, the beginning t with the ending n makes the word 'turn'.
4. Divide the class into two teams and explain the rules.
  - Teams take turns to make words. For each word they make, they must pronounce and spell the word. If they get it right, they win a point.
  - Your team can win an extra turn if they can make a word with the same beginning or ending as the previous team's word. For example, if Team A makes the word 'bird', team B can make the word 'burn' or 'heard' and then have another turn.

Answer key:

Here are possible words. There are other possibilities at higher levels.

bird birth burn church dirt earth firm first girl heard hurt learn nurse search serve shirt skirt surf third turn word work worse worst worth

# TURN WORDS

**beginnings**

b  
f  
g  
h  
n  
s  
sh  
sk  
t  
th  
w



ch  
d  
f  
l  
m  
n  
se  
st  
t  
th

**endings**