

Grammar Card Games

Idea

Use the playing cards idea to reinforce grammatical points. Sets of items are collected or won.

Ingredients

- a pack of playing cards or a box of 'visiting cards'
- typed out grammar items for matching
- or a pen for writing
- sticky tape and/or glue

Method

Type out a grammar set eg

- changes in a noun with and without the definite article;
- the nominative and genitive of nouns;
- noun plurals
- irregular verbs
- etc.

Photocopy a number of the sets and cut each word out. Stick to the back of a playing card or on to a visiting card. If using the visiting card, you can simply write the word directly on to the card.

Games

You can play gin rummy: distribute five cards to each player. Put the rest of the cards face down. The object is to collect sets and to get rid of your cards.

Or you can play a memory game: spread the cards face down on a table and pick up pairs or threes, depending on the number of cards in the set.

Or you could play poker, collecting a set, say, of the tenses of irregular verbs ie the present tense of one, the past of another etc. Higher points would derive from collecting all the cards for one verb, (like a royal flush ?)

Faigheann tú an pictiúr !

All in all, we find card games a fun way to learn difficult aspects of Irish grammar. The other night I played a game with beginners, match the interrogative and positive and negative responses for the verb 'to be' in the present, past, and past present continuous. Students could start if they had a question card ie 'an raibh?' or 'an bhfuil?'. That was laid on the table. The next student could put a match under it eg 'bhí' or 'tá' and the next student along could try to complete either of the sets. The person who completed the set 'won' the set. If you couldn't add to the set on the table you picked a new card from the pile. The person with the most sets and or who had run out of cards first was the winner. Even students who had started that night picked the idea up as before the game I reinforced the grammar lesson.