

Test Your Research Skills

How to Make Your Own Board Game (instructions)

Playing board games is a great way for students to unwind and have a chance to practise their English in an informal environment. They can be even more valuable to students if they're allowed to design and make their own board game from scratch! Follow our simple instructions and your students will be busy in small groups making the next Monopoly® in no time:

Firstly, think of a name and theme for your game, e.g. animals, cars, sport, etc.

You will need to find:

- A die.
- Some counters (decide the minimum and maximum number of players).
- A game board – use our ready-to-play template or design your own using one of our blank templates.

The game board should have a mix of different types of spaces:

- Some positive spaces, e.g. go forwards x spaces, or go to space no. x (forwards).
- Some negative spaces, e.g. go back x spaces, miss a turn, go to space no. x (backwards), or go back to the start.
- Some spaces where if you land on them you have to do a forfeit/party piece or answer a general knowledge question (see below).

Finally, think of some special rules that are unique to your board game, e.g. you must throw a six to start or you must throw the right number to finish.

Examples of board game forfeits:

- Whistle or sing your national anthem
- Say the alphabet backwards
- Count from 30 or 50 down to 1 in English
- What is the correct time now in your country?
- Talk for one minute about... e.g. your favourite place, your school, your family.
- What is the total number if you add together all the numbers in your phone number?
- What is the combined age of everyone in the room?
- What is the address/phone number/email address of your school?
- What would you do if...? E.g. if you lost your bag, or if you won the lottery, etc.
- ***Try to think of some more forfeits that fit your chosen theme!***

Types of general knowledge questions:

- In which country is... e.g. Edinburgh? (It's in Scotland, by the way!)
- Name 5 things which have... e.g. wheels, wings, feathers, etc.
- Name five different... e.g. colours, animals, vegetables, clothes, jobs, furniture, etc.
- What is your favourite... e.g. type of music, or season... and tell us why
- Complete the sentence, e.g. "If I were Prime Minister I would..."
- Spell a word... e.g. "appointment"
- Maths equation, e.g. what is 60 divided by 4. (It's 15!)
- ***Try to think of some more questions that fit your chosen theme!***