

## Telephone Wires

This is the classic children's party game sometimes known as 'Chinese whispers'.

A sentence is whispered around the circle of students. The last student to receive the message either says it aloud or writes it on the board. This can be a fun way to introduce a topic and activate schema at the beginning of a class. For example, for a class on food, whisper the question, "What did you have for lunch today?" Equally, at the end of a class it can be a nice way to revise structures or vocabulary from the lesson.

A variation of this is to get the students into two lines (team A and B) in front of the board, so the first student in both lines is really near the board and the teams are lined up behind him/her. You whisper a sentence or a question to the two students at the end of the line and they pass it down the line until it reaches the students nearest the board who then have to write the sentence on the board.

Another variation is to play the game into and out of the students' own language. You whisper the starting sentence in English. The next student translates into their own language and passes it on, the next one translates it back into English and so on until it gets to the end. If you choose your sentences carefully this can be a fun way to look at your learners' common mistakes which come from mother tongue interference. This version can work well in teams too.

## I went to the shops

This is a classic memory game where each person adds a new item to the list in alphabetical order. For example, student 1: "I went to the shops and I bought an apple". Student 2: "I went to the shops and I bought an apple and a bike". Student 3: "I went to the shops and I bought an apple, a bike and a coat". This game can be adapted to different levels and lexical sets. I recently revised sports and the use of do/ play/ go by playing "I went to the sports centre....." It's the same game, but using different vocabulary. For example, student 1: "I went to the sports centre and I did aerobics." Then "I went to the sports centre and I did aerobics and played basketball." and then "I went to the sports centre and I did aerobics, played basketball and went canoeing."