

Teacher's Instructions

Words Skills is a fun game that is easy to play and can be used to review word skills for students who have just finished the 7 core phonics units at Lanternfish ESL (or any other similar phonics program).

Why *Word Skills*? Word skills are a valuable tool for students as they set out on the road to becoming independent learners. Being able to talk about words is an essential skill language learners will need as they interact with their teachers to figure out spelling, pronunciation, and meaning of new words they encounter. The words skills include identifying *beginning sounds, middle sounds, ending sounds, rhyme, synonyms, antonyms* and, if you use one of the advanced versions, *spelling and past tense of words*.

Game Rules

Students roll the dice to see who goes first. High roller goes first and then the other students' turns go clockwise.

At the beginning of a student's turn, the student rolls the dice and moves that many squares ahead. There are two kinds of squares: action squares and there are question squares.

Action squares are squares like *go ahead 2, miss a turn, short cut, and free candy*. If a student lands on one of these squares the students must do or get whatever the square indicates.

Questions squares are the seven (or more if you include the *spelling square* or the *past tense square*) basic word skills: *begins with, ends with, words that have, rhymes, synonyms, antonyms, and choice*. If a student lands on choice, the student can choose the category of question.

There are three different ways to get the questions:

(1) If you have been going through the Phonics Units and Word Skills Units from Lanternfish ESL you can use the question sheet included with this handout.

(2) You can make up a set of the question cards found in the same place the board game is found. That takes some time but the advantage is that the student's can then ask the questions themselves. **(Not yet available)**

(3) Finally, the teacher can just make the questions up as needed (which is what I usually do).

If a student cannot answer a question, they go back to the square where they began the turn.

I usually make student's answer in complete sentences.

SHIP *begins with* SH.

KING *ends with* NG.

SHELL *rhymes with* BELL.

TOWN *has* OW.

STRONG is the opposite of WEAK.

LEAP is another word for JUMP.

CAT is spelled C-A-T.

SAW is the past tense of SEE.

If teachers don't like free candy squares they can cut and paste one of the other squares into place.



Questions for the *Rhymes* Square

All of the words below come from the Lanternfish core phonics units 1-7. They also have rhyming words within the core units.

What rhymes with **cat**? **Ten? Pup? Frog? Tail? Rain? Lake? Ice? Teach? Sea? Dive? Chop? Ring? Bike? Road? Goat? Star? Dark? Dirt? Grow? Saw? Chew? Town? Sock? Bell? Doll? Book? Loud? Dish? Pool?**

Begins
With

Questions for *Begins With* Square:

The *begins with* square can be used to review **consonant digraphs** (core unit 2) and **consonant blends** (core unit 7). You can also just use single letters of the alphabet.

Name two words that begin with **SH. CH. TH. BL. BR. CL. CR. DR. FL. FR. GL. GR. PL. TR.**



Questions for *Ends with* Square

The *ends with* square can be used to review **consonant digraphs** (core unit 2) and **bossy E words** (core unit 3).

Name two words that end in **NG. CH. LL. TH. SH. CK. KE. PE. CE. GE. NE. ME. TE.**

Words
ai aw ew ow
ea ee ea oo
That Have

Questions for *Word that Have* Square

The words that have square can be used to review **vowel digraphs** (core units 4,6) and **R-controlled vowels** (core unit 5).

Name two words that have **EE. EA. AI. OA. OO. OW. EW. AW. OU. OR. ER. AR. UR. IR.**



Questions for *Synonyms*

Most of these synonyms are taken from the core phonics units or the young learners synonym section:

What is another word for quick/fast? Loud/noisy? Quiet/silent? Small/tiny? Big/large? Sick/ill? Strange/weird? Smart/clever? Mad/angry? Scared/afraid? Leap/jump? Toss/throw? Push/shove? Pull/tug? Sprint/run?



Questions for *Opposites* (Antonyms)

Most of these antonyms are taken from the core phonics units or the young learners antonym section:

What is the opposite of Clear/foggy? Windy/calm? Wet/dry? Hot/cold? Sunny/cloudy? Long/short? Big/small? Thick/thin? Round/square? Light/heavy? Left/right? North/south? East/west? In/ out? Up/down? Tall/short? Fat/thin? Ugly/pretty? Strong/weak? Old/young?



Optional: How Do You Spell It?

You can ask any word but I usually use words from the 7 core phonics units such as the words below.

How do you spell **hat? Ten? Cup? Dog? Mail? Rain? Bake? Mice? Teach? Sea? Dive? Chop? King? Hike? Road? Goat? Star? Dark? Dirt? Grow? Hawk? News? Down? Rock? Shell? Doll? Book? Loud? Fish? Tool?**



Optional: What is the past tense of?

You can ask for any past tense word but I usually use the 30 irregular verbs in the first irregular verb unit.

What is the past tense of **begin? Blow? Bring? Buy? Catch? Come? Do? Draw? Drink? Eat? Get? Give? Go? Grow? Hear? Know? Make? Meet? Read? Run? Say? See? Send? Sing? Sit? Sleep? Swim? Take? Throw? Write?**