

This activity is an oldie - but goodie! It can be used in all levels. Rework the activity to meet your students' needs. For the low-level learners, keep the instructions and vocabulary very basic and provide more assistance and flexibility. For the high-level learners, include more complex items and ask them to use as many complete sentences as possible.

Grab Bag Pot Luck

-- Purpose : vocabulary acquisition (nouns)

-- Materials: small paper bags, 1 item to place in each bag, 3X5 cards

-- Preparation:

On each 3x5 card, write the name of an item and list one-word hints to describe the item. Place one item and its 3x5 card in each bag.

-- Activity : Student selects a bag and peeks inside. The student provides hints about the item, speaking slowly & one word at a time. The 3x5 card may be used if extra help is needed. The student repeats the hints until someone guesses what's in the bag. The student who guesses correctly then gets to select a bag and the process is repeated.

Alternatives :

>>Instead of many small bags, use one large bag to place all items and have students draw from the bag.

>>Instead of realia (actual items) use pictures cut from magazines

Item ideas: Look to your ESL textbook for items that match vocabulary introduced in the lesson. For example, if you're working on, or have finished, a unit on:

> Kitchen: measuring cup, measuring spoons, eating utensils, can of soup, spice, small pot, ladle, whisk, tongs, spatula, hand-held can opener, pot holder, grater

> Clothing/Accessories: socks, child's shoe, wallet, belt, purse, watch, tie, small box of detergent, button, zipper

> First Aid/Health Care: thermometer, tweezers, gauze, ice pack, bandage

> Tools/Household repair : paint brush, hammer, wrench, screwdriver, tape measure, nail, flashlight,

Happy Teaching!