

## Liven up learning with Diana Funtana ESL Productions!



### Get in on the Act IV: Guessing Games

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## Introduction

**Objective:** to practice vocabulary and expressions

**Level:** Beginner to intermediate

**Duration:** 30-60 minutes

**Materials:** vocabulary strips

Guessing games are a good way to create competition and fun in the ESL classroom. They can range from simple games, such as “I Spy” and “20 Questions” to more collaborative group work.

This package includes guessing games for:

- Food vocabulary (beginner)
- Body language (beginner)
- Jobs: What’s My Line? (beginner to advanced level)

These games fit well into a teaching unit that deals with the topics of food, cultural differences and jobs.

### How to play Food Vocabulary and Body Language

1. Divide the class into teams and place the slips of paper with words for food or the expressions for body language into a hat or cookie tin.
2. A candidate from one team comes up to the front of the class and draws a slip of paper. He then pantomimes in front of the class.
3. The first team to guess the correct answer within a time limit wins a point.
4. In the case of food, the teacher can allow the candidate to give a clue; for example, the taste or texture (sour, sweet, salty, crunchy, soft) and/or a colour.
5. The items provided should be sorted into levels of difficulty.

### How to play *What’s My Line*

This game is based on an old television quiz show in which teams try to guess the mystery guest’s job by asking a series of questions. The jobs listed for this game are for students at the beginner and intermediate level, but of course you can choose more difficult and obscure jobs for advanced students.

Preparation:

1. Review the vocabulary in class.

2. Divide the class into groups of 4, and have them prepare a list of Yes or No questions to ask the candidates. (They are not allowed to ask key questions such as Where, What, When, etc.) This can take up a whole lesson for beginner and low intermediate levels.
3. On the board write prompts as to the kind of questions students should ask. Go over each category so that students understand the vocabulary and give one or two examples of the questions they can ask. For example with education:  
Do you have a university degree?  
Did you take a course at a technical school?

Education: university/vocational school/apprenticeship/length of studies

Location: indoors/outdoors/office/factory/school/home/store

Hours of work per week

Salary: monthly/hourly/over \$X

Male or female

Employer: company/government/organization

Type of job: white collar/blue collar/full-time/part-time/seasonal

Responsibilities: manager or lower level

Special equipment: car/computer/gun/uniform

Work alone or in a group

Something to do with money/education/sales/health/food/  
tourism/computers

Field: medicine/education/sales/marketing/finance

Work with hands/head/machines/special materials?

Production, manufacturing or service

Help other people

Dangerous or high-risk

Involve travel

Traditional or recent

Adjectives are also helpful in describing jobs and you can teach or review the following:

difficult

important

challenging

creative

demanding

dangerous

dirty

necessary

helpful

useful

boring

exciting

interesting

fun

stressful

lucrative

menial

physical

4. At the front of the class set up a table for the candidate and the teacher who acts as moderator. For advanced levels a student can act as moderator.
5. Each team takes a turn at selecting their candidate, and the other teams ask questions. The candidate selects a job from a hat or cookie tin and if she doesn't understand the word or know what kind of gesture to use, the teacher can take her outside of the room and give advice.
6. When the candidate is ready, he writes whether he is employed or self-employed on the board and describes it with one adjective or uses a gesture, which should not be too obvious. It is up to the teacher to determine how difficult she wants to make the game.
7. The teacher explains that as long as the candidate answers "yes" to the team's questions, they may continue. As soon as the candidate answers "no", the next team gets a chance to ask. Teams can guess at any time if they think they know the answer as long as it's still their turn to ask questions. The game proceeds until the candidate has answered "no" 10 times, or one team guesses the job.
8. To add some incentive to the game, the teacher can drop a candy or a chocolate coin into a piggy bank. If no team guesses the job, the candidate, and his team, win the contents of the piggy bank. If one team guesses the candidate's job, they win the contents.

**PIZZA**

**MUSHROOMS**

**BEER**

**LIVER**

**MUSTARD**

**FRENCH FRIES**

**CHOCOLATE**

**JELLO**

**PUDDING**

**COCA-COLA**

**ICE CREAM**

**BACON**

**FRIED EGGS**

**TOAST**

**MUFFINS**

**CABBAGE**

**PINEAPPLE**

**GARLIC**

**SALSA**

**HOT DOGS**

**PUMPKIN PIE**

**PEPPERMINTS**

**CHICKEN WINGS**

**ONIONS**

**WINE**

**LEMONS**

**RICE KRISPIES**

**COFFEE**

**KIMCHEE**

**PEANUTS**

**NACHOS**

**PEAS**

**BEAN SPROUTS**

**SOYA SAUCE**

**MISO**

**CHIPS**

**SALMON**

**SHRIMP**

**PICKLES**

**SPAGHETTI**

**OYSTERS**

**COOKIES**

**WATERMELON**

**PARMESAN**

**MILK**

**SARDINES**

**SALAMI**

**SANDWICH**

**POPCORN**

**NOODLES**

**SOUP**

**GRAVY**

**OLIVE OIL**

**BUTTER**

**JAM**

**PEACHES**

**BLUEBERRIES**

**HAMBURGER**

**HAM**

**CRACKERS**

**TOFU**

**WHISKY**

**GINGER**

**OATMEAL**

**HALIBUT**

**ANCHOVIES**

**FETA CHEESE**

**EGGPLANT**

**GRAPES**

**VODKA**

**ORANGE JUICE**

**GRANOLA**



**You're crazy!**

**Stop!**

**I don't know!**

**I can't hear you!**

**Come here!**

**Go away!**

**Who, me?**

**Hurry up!**

**You're dead!**

**Time out!**

**And ...**

**Think!**

**I don't believe it!**

**Go ahead!**

**I need some money.**

**Yes!**

**No!**

**Good luck!**

**Bad boy/girl!**

**Be quiet!**

**Sit down, please!**

**After you!**

**Boring!**

**You're wrong!**

**Wait!**

**Over here!**

**Why?**

**That's too loud!**

**That tastes good!**

**That tastes terrible!**

**Wow!**

**mailman**

**astronaut**

**artist**

**baker**

**dentist**

**soldier**

**social worker**

**fire fighter**

**farmer**

**florist**

**nurse**

**stunt man**

**ambulance driver**

**taxi driver**

**actor**

**photographer**

**barber**

**pilot**

**stock broker**

**priest**

**garbage man**

**carpenter**

**concert pianist**

**nanny**

**car salesman**

**lawyer**

**fisherman**

**fashion model**

**fashion designer**

**bus driver**

**professor**

**veterinarian**

**web designer**

**bank teller**

**systems analyst**

**waiter**

**journalist**

**psychologist**

**surgeon**

**secretary**

**real estate agent**

**mechanic**

**music teacher**

**opera singer**

**butcher**

**matchmaker**

**business owner**

**tailor**

**welder**

**ESL teacher**

**CEO**

**sailor**

**comedian**

**tour guide**

**writer**

**physiotherapist**

**pharmacist**

**ballet dancer**

**truck driver**

**telemarketer**

**optometrist**

**bricklayer**

**gourmet chef**

**chemist**

**king/queen**

**clown**

**lab technician**

**gardener**

**garbage collector**

**film director**

**masseur/euse**

**make-up artist**