

Thingummy

This activity is based on the well-known game Taboo®. German students may remember the television show *Dingsda*. The aim is to explain words without saying the word so that others can guess. The winner of the game is the person who guesses the most words. If you like, take along a small prize for the winner.

Preparation:

Make one copy of the sheet for every group of 3–4 students in your class. Cut the words up along the lines to get a set of 36 word cards.

In class:

1. Tell your class you are going to review the vocabulary of Unit 7 with a word game. Ask them if they know the game Taboo®, or if they have ever watched the German television show *Dingsda*. Have a student who knows the game explain it to the class. If nobody knows the game, model the activity with the whole class by describing a word without saying it and asking students to guess what it is.
2. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and have each group sit around a table.
3. Each group gets one set of word cards and distributes them evenly among the group members. They must not show their cards to other group members.
4. Give students a few minutes to think of descriptions of their words. They are not expected to give perfect and complicated definitions, they should simply make themselves understood.
5. Students take turns describing one of their words, while the others in the group guess. The student who guesses the word first gets the card with the word.
6. The winner is the person with the most correct answers.

→ *Teaching tip*

Point out the fact that this is an authentic activity. Language learners do not always have all the words they need in their repertoires, so it is a good compensation strategy to explain, paraphrase, and define. Emphasize that even in our native language we sometimes use this strategy.

→ *Extension activity*

You can do this game at any level if you also allow miming and drawing.

→ *Extension activity*

You can do this with zero preparation time if you bring along blank cards and ask students to go through one or some particular unit(s) and write the words on the blank cards which they would like to remember.

Thingummy

Word cards

lie on the beach	visit a museum	talk on the phone	unhappy
a swimming pool	go cycling	restless	play golf
a cottage	play squash	a trip	a cruise
a travel agent	a couple	a holiday	weather
read a book	hotel	play tennis	hot
balcony	relax	dirty	opera house
go swimming	expensive	write emails	double room
sauna	farmhouse	unhappy	pets
price	aunt	togethering	grandparents