Speaking and Vocabulary Games for the EFL Classroom

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Last Man Standing or Survivor

- Choose a theme or topic
- Have students write as many relevant items as they can think of within a time limit
- Take turns with students saying one of their items
- Everyone who also has that item must cross it off his/her list
- The last student who has remaining items wins
Hotseat or Back to the Wall

- Make two teams; put two chairs in front of the chalkboard, but facing away from it
- Have one student from each team sit in the chair
- Write a vocabulary word for review on the board. The seated students must not look.
- Have teammates give clues to the student in the chair.
- The first student to guess the word gets a point for her/his team
Twenty Questions

- Specifically for reviewing yes/no question structure
- Choose a category; tell students you are thinking of something in it
- Students take turns answering yes/no questions
- The limit is 20 total questions
- BUT: if the yes/no question grammar is not correct, don’t answer the question
- Who wins? Students if they guess in less than 20 questions; Teacher if not
Voiceover

- Choose a commercial or film/TV program segment that does not have characters conversing.
- Show it to the students without the sound; have students think about the vocabulary they will need to describe what is happening in the AV.
- Play the AV again without the sound; have a student narrate what is happening.
- Play the AV again with the sound.

Teaching points: vocabulary; verb tenses (simple present).
That’s a wrap! or Oscar Night

- Choose a TV/film scene that features characters talking
- Divide students into pairs/groups according to the number of characters in the film conversation
- Play the scene for students without the sound
- Have students create a dialogue that corresponds to the film conversation
- Have students act out the dialogue for the class while the film is playing without sound
- Play the film scene with sound
- Extras for fun: do costumes; award Oscars for Best Actress, etc.