

Resources for Higher Levels (CLB 5-8): A short video of word associations: “Words”

“WORDS” VIDEO

Words is a beautiful and intelligent short film made by Will Hoffman and Daniel Mercadante, which plays a game of word association while barely using any spoken language. Find it on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0HfwkArpvU>.



“WORDS” LESSON PLAN

(Posted on September 15, 2011 by kierandonaghy on <http://film-english.com/2011/09/15/words/>)

The lesson practices a lot of vocabulary through collocation and word association, and uses the online graphical dictionary [Visuwords](#).

Step 1

Write *play* on the board and ask your students to work in small groups and to come up with as many meanings and collocations as they can for the word both as a verb and a noun in 5 minutes.

Step 2

After 5 minutes get feedback from each group, and write up the words in the form of a concept map. Here's an example of a very simple mind map:



Step 3

Go to the visual dictionary [Visuwords](#), enter *play* and look at the results and compare them with your concept map.

Step 4

Give each group one or two of the following words depending on the number of students you have: *blow*, *break*, *split*, *run*, *fly*, *fall*, *light*, *space*. Ask them to do the same as they did in Step 1: come up with as many meaning and collocations for the word, and to create a concept map to show the relationship between the words.

Step 5

Get feedback from your students. Ask one member of each group to present their concept map to the rest of the class.

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Step 6

Tell your students they are going to watch a film called *Words* which plays a game of word association using the 9 words they’ve been working on in class while barely using any spoken language. Show them the film, and ask them to look for any of the meanings and collocations which they came up with in steps 1 and 4.

Step 7

Get feedback from you students. Show them the film for a second time and see if they get any more meanings and collocations.

Step 8

Give your students the words association worksheet tell them to try and match the words. Next watch the film again and check the answers on the second and third pages.

Step 9

Ask your students to write a story in which they use a lot of the vocabulary which they’ve done in the lesson, they can choose the title of the story.

Follow Up

Give your students these links to help them improve their vocabulary learning:

[Lingro](http://lingro.com/) is the best online dictionary I’ve seen, just enter a website address to make all the words on that page clickable and get a definition. <http://lingro.com/>

[Just The Word](http://www.just-the-word.com/) a great site for students who want to improve their use of collocation.

<http://www.just-the-word.com/>

[Snappy Words](http://www.snappywords.com/) an online visual dictionary similar to Visuwords.

<http://www.snappywords.com/>

[Knoword](http://www.knoword.org/) is a great site for advanced students who want to broaden their vocabulary in a fun way. <http://www.knoword.org/>