

100 Vowel race

Activity type: Pronunciation – Board game – Pairs / Groups

Aim: To practise recognising and producing the 12 basic vowel sounds

Language: Vowel sounds – Use at any point from Independent learning, p87.

Preparation: Make one copy of worksheet 1 for every two learners and one copy of worksheet 2 for every four learners. Cut worksheet 1 up along the dotted line.

Time: 25 minutes

- 1 Learners sit in pairs. Give half the pairs (Team A) a copy of the top part of worksheet 1 and give the other pairs (Team B) a copy of the bottom part. Learners look at the sound and the definition, and find a word in the box which contains the sound and matches the definition. They write the word next to the definition. Monitor and check each pair's answers.

A	B
/ʊ/ good, could	/æ/ cat, man
/i:/ feet, meat	/ɑ:/ park, far
/u:/ food, moon	/ɒ/ box, watch
/ɜ:/ first, learn	/ɔ:/ floor, door
/e/ help, pen	/ʌ/ fun, cup
/ɪ/ six, bit	/ə/ mother, tomato
/ɑ:/ laugh, car	/u:/ suit, new
/ə/ hospital, banana	/ɜ:/ worst, nurse
/ɔ:/ talk, bought	/e/ said, red
/ʌ/ son, run	/ʊ/ cook, book
/æ/ black, sad	/ɪ/ women, big
/ɒ/ wash, shop	/i:/ sea, free

- 2 Next, learners find another word in the box for each sound. They work in their pairs to write a definition for each of these words on the line to the right of the sound it contains. As they do this, go round and check.
- 3 Ask each Team A pair to work with a Team B pair, and give each group of four a copy of worksheet 2 (the game board). Explain that they are going to play the *Vowel Race* game. Team A has to go from left to right across the board and Team B has to go from top to bottom. Demonstrate how the game works by asking the following question and getting learners to give the answer: *What /e/ has two eyes, a nose, a mouth and a brain?* (Answer: head). The first team to answer correctly goes first.
- 4 The game then continues as follows. The team going first picks a shape and the other team asks them the question for either of the two words corresponding with the vowel in that shape. If the question is answered correctly, with the correct pronunciation, the team claims the shape, writing an A or a B on it. If the answer is incorrect, the shape remains unclaimed. The other team then picks a shape, and so on. The game continues until one team has claimed a connecting line of shapes from either left to right (Team A) or top to bottom (Team B).

10C Vowel race 1

A

- 1 The opposite of *bad* /ʊ/ _____
- 2 The things at the end of your legs /i:/ _____
- 3 What we eat to stay alive /u:/ _____
- 4 The position of the person who wins a race /ɜ:/ _____
- 5 What we do when a friend has a problem /e/ _____
- 6 Two times three /ɪ/ _____
- 7 What you do when you hear a good joke /ɑ:/ _____
- 8 The place where you have an operation /ə/ _____
- 9 What people do on the telephone /ɔ:/ _____
- 10 A male child /ʌ/ _____
- 11 The colour of the sky at night /æ/ _____
- 12 What you should do if you are dirty /ɒ/ _____

hospital	laugh	wash	first	feet	six	bought	food
black	moon	talk	good	sad	bit	son	meat
help	shop	pen	learn	car	could	run	banana



B

- 1 A popular kind of pet /æ/ _____
- 2 A good place to play football /ɑ:/ _____
- 3 A container to keep things in /ɒ/ _____
- 4 What you have under your feet /ɔ:/ _____
- 5 What you have if you enjoy yourself /ʌ/ _____
- 6 Your female parent /ə/ _____
- 7 The best thing to wear for a job interview /u:/ _____
- 8 Definitely not the best! /ɜ:/ _____
- 9 The past of say /e/ _____
- 10 How to prepare something for dinner /ʊ/ _____
- 11 More than one female adult /ɪ/ _____
- 12 The Mediterranean is an example of one /i:/ _____

suit	worst	box	women	mother	red	fun	door
cook	cat	big	said	sea	cup	floor	tomato
park	far	nurse	watch	man	free	new	book

10C Vowel race 2

A



B

