

Intro A Language dominoes

Activity type: Vocabulary and pronunciation – Card game – Groups

Aim: To practise pronouncing and distinguishing between nouns for countries and languages

Language: Countries and languages – Use at any point during the Intro unit.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every three learners. Cut up each worksheet along the dotted lines to form sets of 30 dominoes.

Time: 20 minutes

- 1 Divide learners into groups of three or four. Give each group a set of 30 dominoes. Learners shuffle the dominoes and deal out six to each player. The remaining dominoes should be placed face down in the centre of the table.
- 2 Explain that one learner should start by placing one domino in the centre of the table. The learner to his/her left then tries to place a domino on either side of this first domino, matching either a country to a language spoken in that country or a language to a country. If a learner puts a domino down he/she should say both the country and the language, in order to check pronunciation. With stronger classes, you can ask them to say e.g. *In China, they speak Chinese*. To check whether a language is an official language of a country or not, use the following key:

Arabic: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan

Chinese: China

*English: England, Australia, the USA,
Canada, Scotland, Kenya*

Farsi: Iran

French: France, Canada, Switzerland

German: Germany, Austria, Switzerland

Italian: Italy, Switzerland

Japanese: Japan

Korean: South Korea

Polish: Poland

Portuguese: Portugal, Brazil

Russian: Russia

Spanish: Spain, Argentina, Mexico

Swahili: Kenya

Turkish: Turkey

Note

The languages above are either official (i.e. for legal purposes) or national (i.e. designated by the government) languages of the country. Some countries (e.g. the USA and Australia) have no official languages but have national languages instead. Others (e.g. Canada) have more than one national language.

- 3 Play continues in a clockwise direction with players putting down one domino each turn. Note that blanks are ‘jokers’ and can be used as any language (if on the right side of the domino) or country (if on the left side). If a player is unable to put down a domino he/she must take an extra one from the pile in the centre and wait for his/her next turn before having another chance to put one down. Play continues until one player has discarded all his/her dominoes. This player is the winner.

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Spain	Arabic	Australia	Spanish	China	English
Austria	German	Switzerland	Spanish	the USA	Swahili
Mexico	Turkish	Turkey	German	Iran	Chinese
Russia	Japanese	Jordan	English	Japan	Arabic
Germany	French	Canada	Russian	_____	English
Italy	English	England	German	_____	Arabic
Poland	English	Egypt	Italian	_____	Farsi
France	Portuguese	Portugal	Polish	Saudi Arabia	_____
South Korea	Portuguese	Brazil	French	Kenya	_____
Scotland	Spanish	Argentina	Korean	_____	_____