Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Pronunciation Whispers

Purpose: This is a variation of the game also known as “Telephone,” “Gossip” and “Chinese Whispers.” It’s great fun with beginners, although it flies better with classes that aren’t too sensitive about the way they pronounce words in English. It’ll be necessary for you as the teacher to play the role of a judge who’s equal parts harsh and fair.

Preparation and Materials: This is best played with more students. I’ve used it in classes ranging from 7-25 years of age and it’s worked well in all age groups. Here's a step by step explanation:

Produce:

The rules are very simple for this game. The class is divided into two teams, each of which has to form a line. You say a different word to each group. The students have to whisper the word to the student next to them until the last one has to say the word out loud. If a team pronounces the word correctly, they get a point.

So all the students get to have a go at this, change the order of the line with each new round. Have the student at the front who’s listening to you say the word, go to the end of the queue and have to say the word out loud next. To make the game more challenging, you could write the word down on a piece of paper rather than saying it.

A piece of vocabulary you had mentioned earlier in class would be perfect for this, as would words that follow a pronunciation pattern you may have taught in class, such as words ending in -ed.