

Fishing

Point:	stress patterns in short phrases
Minimum level:	intermediate
Game type:	a matching puzzle for students working individually (or in pairs)
Approximate time:	15 minutes

Preparation

Make a copy of the puzzle for each member of the class.

Presentation

1 Choose some short phrases from your course and write them on the board. Read the phrases aloud to demonstrate their stress patterns and draw a circle under the stressed syllables. These stressed syllables will be in the content words as opposed to the grammatical words. Draw a smaller circle under each of the remaining syllables. These syllables will be the unstressed parts of the content words and the form words. (Note that the stress patterns could be different if one part of the message is given a special emphasis for some reason.)

2 Ask students to think of some other phrases and indicate the stress pattern with circles.

Conducting the game

1 Give each student a puzzle. (The puzzle could also be done in pairs.) Explain that for each of the phrases around the edge of the pond, there is another phrase with the same stress pattern elsewhere. The object of the game is to draw straight lines joining these matching pairs of phrases to discover which fish is caught.

2 A fish is caught if it is completely surrounded by lines.

3 One strategy would be to begin by marking the stress patterns under each of the phrases.

Key

Fish B is caught. The correct matching pairs are:

- Look! - Wait!
- Begin! - She talked.
- Who cares? - Don't stop!
- Don't worry! - Keep quiet!
- They've arrived.- I insist.
- They've finished. - I've seen it.
- What's the time? - Don't forget!
- See you later! - Come and see us!
- I spoke to John. - He wants to come.
- Where was he from? - What do you want?
- She tried to call you. - I can't believe it.

Making your own versions

You can make your own version using phrases from your course. Draw the points and join pairs of them up. Choose one enclosed area to place the caught fish. Place the rest of the fish in unenclosed areas. Label all the fish with letters of the alphabet. Trace the points and fish onto a second sheet of paper and write the phrases by the points. Make sure that you have a matching pair by two points that were connected by a line on the first sheet of paper.

Join the dots next to the sentences with matching stress patterns. There is only one pair of sentences for each stress pattern. The eleven stress patterns in the game are:

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