

Question Ball! (Or Not-So-Silent Silent Ball)

Topic:	Vocabulary, Warm-ups, Time Fillers, Games, Sports and Physical Education, Culture and History, Pop Culture, Movies, Other
Level:	Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced,
Age:	Children, Teens,
Skill:	Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension,

Description:

This game is a variation on the game silent ball. The main variation is that the students should be speaking! It is great for reviewing things such as questions, facts from movies or stories, vocabulary and definitions or just a fun ice breaker.

Objectives:

Students should show proficiency in asking/answering questions in complete sentences. Vocabulary skills, reading or visual comprehension are tested. Oh, and they should have fun!

Duration:

15-30 minutes

Materials:

One soft sponge ball (approximately the size of a volleyball) that will not hurt if someone gets hit in the head or face with it.

Some review material questions.

Procedure:

All the students sit up on their desks or tables, provided they are sturdy enough. If safety is an issue, they should remain in their seats. They should spread out so they can throw better.

VARIATION 1 (Review)

Start the game by asking the first question and tossing the ball out to one of the students. The student who receives the ball has 5 seconds to do one thing: answer the question asked. The teacher then asks a new review question and the student who last answered throws the ball to another student. The student that catches the ball will go through the same process. The teacher will judge the answers and timing.

VARIATION 2 (Ice-Breaker)

Start the game by asking the first question and tossing the ball out to one of the students. The student who receives the ball has 20 seconds to do three things: answer the question asked, ask a question and throw the ball to another student. The student that catches the ball will go through the same process. The teacher will judge the questions, answers and timing.

Rules

1. A question must be asked before the student throws the ball to another player.
2. The person who catches it must answer the question as truthfully or accurately as possible. If they can't answer a reasonable question (the teacher must be the judge for this), then they are out of the game. They should sit back down and cheer for the others or help the teacher think of questions by writing them on paper and silently passing them to the teacher.
3. If the ball is dropped by a student, they must pick it up and they lose X seconds of time (for the teacher to decide depending on the variation). For example, on variation two when they pick it up and sit down, the teacher will start counting to 15 seconds in which the student must fulfill the required tasks.
4. If a student makes a wild throw not really intended for anyone, the ball must be thrown back to him/her and that student is given an X second penalty (again, for the teacher to determine before the game begins) in which to answer a new question, ask a question and throw the ball.

Options

1. Change the rules to fit the level of the students better. Sometimes they need more time, sometimes they need less. The teacher is the best judge of this.
2. The teacher may or may not wish to join in the game. This adds extra excitement as students like to ask the teacher some wacky questions.
3. Give the students some time to prepare some questions before the game. They are not allowed to write them down. Instead, encourage them to remember key words in their questions. Explain what key words are.