

1.22 Simon says

Language Imperatives

Level Beginner–Elementary

Age Children

This old party game can be a useful exercise for revising vocabulary with young learners.

Procedure

The teacher shouts out instructions, which should only be obeyed if they include the words ‘Simon says’.

Example instructions are:

- ‘Simon says “Raise your right hand”.’
- ‘Simon says “Hop on your left foot”.’
- ‘Touch your toes.’
- ‘Simon says “Kneel on one knee”.’
- ‘Turn around.’
- etc.

The exercise can be competitive between teams or individuals, with the winner being the last student to get an instruction wrong. Alternatively it can be decided on a points basis (add points for each mistake: the lowest total wins).

Variations

- i) Instead of using ‘Simon says’ as the key words to listen for, use ‘please’, or polite forms such as ‘could you’.
- ii) As you give an instruction, perform an action yourself. This action might or might not correspond with the instruction. Students should obey your words, not necessarily copy what you are doing.
- iii) The class is divided into groups. Within each group students give instructions to each other, leaving the teacher free to observe and note any mistakes for later correction.