



1. Overview

MindGame is an interactive game based on the concept of helping students learn through fun and through the repetition built into the game. It encourages collaborative learning, especially where students play together in teams. The strong game-playing element provides motivation and this competitive (but non-threatening) aspect makes students strive to succeed. In the game itself students focus on discrete items of language, but the follow-on activities transfer them into a wider language environment, for example a speaking activity, a song, a picture, a puzzle, even an authentic website.

MindGame comes with an integrated authoring program, so teachers - or students - can create games specifically tailored for their own language needs.

The syllabus ranges from dead central grammar areas such as verb and adjective forms to key vocab areas, including jobs, countries and nationalities and acronyms, to more playful areas of the language such as homophones and anagrams, not traditionally covered in the coursebooks.



2. When can I use MindGame?

By Mario Rinvoluceri

This is the kind of situation in which you might want to use **MindGame**. Suppose you have an elementary class and a lot of irregular past tenses have come up over the past three or four weeks in the units you have covered from the coursebook. You feel that the students need to consolidate their grasp of these bizarre verb forms (to speakers of languages with more regular grammar they do seem bizarre). In the past you have usually given the students the homework task of revising the verbs to prepare for a classroom test.



With **MindGame** you can achieve the same pedagogical aim (consolidation of half-learnt verb forms) without recourse to boring rote-learning homework and the stress of a test. You simply take your elementary class into the computer lab, place them two to a machine and have them work on common irregular verbs. I say *work* because that is what they are actually doing, but most students don't perceive it that way. They feel they are playing an intriguing game; the learning of the knobbly grammar is buried in the desire to beat their partner in a classic age-old contest.

Elementary

LANGUAGE AREA	EXPLANATION/EXAMPLE
1. A or an?	Understanding whether to use a or an by listening to the initial sound of the noun.
2. Anagrams	Making anagrams from words such as sit, was, who
3. Contractions	Practising simple contractions, eg I'm, you're, we've
4. Country and nationality	Learning countries and nationalities
5. Days and months	Vocab of days and months, eg Tuesday + 2 = Thursday
6. First, second, ...	Learning vocabulary of cardinal and ordinal numbers
7. Gerunds	Practising forming gerunds, eg come - coming, get - getting, die - dying
8. He or she?	Learning vocab of masculine and feminine, eg he - she, man - woman, boy - girl
9. Jobs	Learning job names, eg What do we call someone who delivers letters?
10. Names and numbers	A dictation where students have to write a dictated name or number accurately, as on the telephone
11. Numbers	Learning written numbers from figures



12.Opposites	Learning vocabulary through opposites, eg in - out, here - there, in - out
13.Past participles	Learning regular and irregular past participles
14.Past simple verbs	Learning common simple past forms, eg got, went, had
15.Question words	eg when, how, why, what time...
16.Singular and plural	Forming regular and irregular plurals, eg tables, watches, families
17.Spelling	eg forty, friend, marriage
18.Spelling: saying hello	Dictation, eg I'm a student, How are you?
19.Telling the time	Learning to write the time in full, eg 5:00 = five o'clock
20.Third person singular	Forming the third person sing. simple present, eg sits, watches, hurries

Lower Intermediate

LANGUAGE AREA	EXPLANATION/EXAMPLE
1. A, an or some?	Enabling students to understand when to use a, an and some with countable sing. and pl. nouns and uncountable nouns
2. Abbreviations	Familiarising students with common abbreviations, eg mm, asap, tel
3. Adjectives and adverbs	Forming adverbs from adjectives and adjectives from adverbs, eg angry - angrily, gentle - gently
4. Anagrams	Making anagrams from words such as break, care, each
5. Comparatives	Enabling students to form comparatives
6. Contractions	Understanding common contractions, eg aren't, weren't, it's
7. Countries and capitals	Learning the English names for countries and capital cities, eg Athens, Cairo
8. Countries and nationalities	Learning countries and nationalities, eg Malaysia - Malaysian
9. Homophones	Listening to a word and finding a homophone, eg eight, one, see
10.In, at or on?	Learning when to use in, at and on with time and place
11.Making the simple past	Learning irregular simple past forms, eg lost, slept, thought
12.Names and numbers	A dictation where students have to write a dictated name or number accurately, as on the telephone.
13.Nouns and adjectives	Learning to form nouns from adjectives and adjectives from nouns, eg anger - angry, sun - sunny
14.Opposites	Learning or revising vocabulary organised as opposites, eg top - bottom, inside - outside, front - back
15.Past participles	eg broken, flown, heard
16.Rhyming words	Finding rhyming words, eg rhymes for come, bought, go
17.Spelling 1	eg although, excellent, grammar
18.Spelling 2	eg address, exercise, height
19.Verbs and jobs	Learning to make job titles from verbs, eg type - typist, design - designer
20.Verbs and nouns	Forming verbs from nouns and nouns from verbs, eg invite -



	invitation
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Intermediate

LANGUAGE AREA	EXPLANATION/EXAMPLE
1. American and British spelling	Helping students to understand the differences between BrE and AmE spelling, eg colour - color, labour - labor
2. Anagrams	Making anagrams from words such as face, host, note
3. Country and nationality	eg Brazil - Brazilian, Finland - Finnish
4. Do and make	Learning when to use do and make, eg make the bed, do your homework
5. Homophones	Listening to a word and finding a homophone, eg made, poor, sale
6. Long and short vowels	Discriminating between long and short vowel sounds, ship - sheep, lip - leap
7. Masculine and feminine	Learning the vocab of masculine and feminine, eg brother-in-law - sister-in-law, lion - lioness
8. Nouns and adjectives	Forming nouns from adjectives and adjectives from nouns, eg clarity - clear, nature - natural
9. Opposites	Vocabulary, eg deep - shallow, sharp - blunt
10. Past participles	Learning irregular past participles, eg freeze - frozen, hurt - hurt
11. Past simple verbs	Learning irregular simple past forms, eg rise - rose, beat - beat
12. Prefixes	Learning to make negatives with prefixes, eg dis-, in-, un-
13. Rhyming words	Finding rhyming words, eg colder - shoulder, lose - shoes
14. Singular and plural	Forming irregular plurals, eg leaf - leaves, mouse - mice
15. Spelling 1	eg businessman, marriage, naughty
16. Spelling 2	eg autumn, receipt, guarantee
17. Superlatives	Forming superlatives, eg busy, flat, frightened
18. Time, space and weight	Learning measures of time, space and weight, eg second, mile, kilogram
19. Verbs and nouns	Forming verbs from nouns and nouns from verbs, eg damage - damage, imagine - imagination
20. Weights and measures	Learning abbreviations for weights and measures

Upper Intermediate

LANGUAGE AREA	EXPLANATION/EXAMPLE
1. Active and passive	Manipulating active and passive in different tenses
2. American and British English	AmE and BrE vocabulary, eg faucet - tap, cookie - biscuit
3. Anagrams	Making anagrams from words such as bear, hear, rock
4. Animal noises	Learning the words for animal noises, eg bark, purr, coo
5. As... as a ...	Fixed expressions for comparison, eg as cool as a..., as white as a...
6. Boys' and girls' names	eg Joseph - Josephine, Andrew - Andrea...



7. Countries and people	eg Finland - a Finn, Peru - a Peruvian
8. Crime and criminals	Vocabulary of crime and criminal, eg burglary - burglar
9. Dictionary language	Helping students to understand the information that dictionaries provide by learning the meanings of the abbreviations, eg C means countable
10. Email abbreviations	Learning the most common email abbreviations, eg FYI, BTW...
11. Homophones	Listening to a word and identifying a homophone, eg sell, air, size...
12. Negative prefixes	Learning the different ways of making negatives using prefixes, eg in-, anti-, mis-, de-, dis-...
13. Nouns and adjectives	Forming adjectives from nouns and nouns from adjectives, eg poor - poverty, kind - kindness
14. Past participles	Learning irregular past participles, eg bleed - bled, slide - slid
15. Past simple verbs	Learning irregular simple past forms, eg overtake - overtook, swear - swore
16. Rhyming words	eg ready - steady, hollow - swallow
17. Spelling 1	eg niece, necessary, separate
18. Spelling 2	eg knock, embarrassed, success
19. Verbs and nouns	Forming verbs from nouns and nouns from verbs, eg threaten - threat
20. Word pairs	Strong collocations, eg knife and..., here and..., lock, stock and...

Advanced

LANGUAGE AREA	EXPLANATION/EXAMPLE
1. "Double words"	Reduplication, eg roly-poly, hanky-panky, heebie-jeebies
2. "Make" words	eg make better = improve, make stronger = strengthen
3. Abbreviations	Abbreviations for organisations, eg ISO, OPEC, WTO, BBC
4. Adjectives and nouns	Forming adjectives from nouns and nouns from adjectives, eg diligent - diligence, sensitive - sensitivity
5. Affix opposites	Practising making opposites using affixes, eg implicit - explicit, loyal - disloyal
6. American/British English	AmE-BE equivalents, eg diaper - nappy, pitcher - jug
7. Anagrams	Making anagrams from words such as much, save, atom
8. Homophones	Listening to a word and identifying a homophone, eg muscle, horse, dough
9. Keyboard symbols	Learning the names of keyboard symbols, eg @, %, &, *
10. Adjectives for living things	Learning adjectives related to living things, eg cat - feline, flower - floral
11. Masculine and feminine	Matching masculine and feminine, eg goose-gander, boar - sow
12. Names of tenses	Learning to identify all the major tense names in English
13. Past participles	Difficult irregular past participles such as cling - clung, arise - arisen



14.Simple past verbs	Difficult irregular simple past forms, eg mislay - mislaid, override - overrode
15.Singular and plural	Difficult irregular plurals, eg phenomenon - phenomena, louse - lice
16.Spelling	eg picnickers, knackered, grotesque
17.Spelling: medical words	eg tonsillitis, rheumatism, diarrhoea
18.Strong collocations	eg chalk and..., rock and..., trial and...
19.Verbs and abstract nouns	Forming verbs from abstract nouns and abstract nouns from verbs, eg inspire - inspiration, emphasize - emphasis
20.Words and numbers	Numbers associated with prefixes, eg hexagon, pentathlon, bilingual