Productive Vocabulary Party

Kristen Sharma

Levels	**Beginning to advanced**
Aims	**Use vocabulary productively to aid learning of meaning and collocations**
Class Time	**15 minutes**
Preparation Time	**30 minutes**
Resources	**A question, including a target word, for each student to memorise**

This activity is a good way to introduce weekly vocabulary, showing students how to use the target words productively.

PROCEDURE

1. Before class, identify the target words.

2. Create a question which uses each of the target words. For example, if the target word is *achieve*, the question could be "What do you hope to achieve on this course?" (See the examples in the Appendix.)

3. Collate all the questions on a document in at least 14-point font, making the target words bold. Print this document, and cut it up so each strip of paper has a question on it.

4. In class, once you have introduced the words, give each student a strip of paper with a question on it.

5. Explain that the class will have a vocabulary party. They must memorise their question, then mix and mingle with their classmates, asking each other their questions in a natural way, without reading.

6. They should answer their classmates' questions as fully as they can, using the target vocabulary.

7. Once students have asked their question to three people, they can swap questions with another student. They then memorise the new question and mix and mingle again to ask their classmates that question.

8. You decide when it is time to end the activity.

CAVEATS AND OPTIONS

The strips of paper with the questions on them can be collected and stuck to the wall for future reference, especially in terms of grammar or collocations with particular words. As you do this activity more and more, a bank of questions can be built up, reducing the preparation time.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Coxhead, A. (1998). *An academic word list* (Occasional Publication No. 18). Victoria, New Zealand: University of Wellington.

APPENDIX: *Academic Word List Question Bank*

I have created a bank of questions based on the Academic Word List (Coxhead, 1998) for use in my course, set out in the following format:

Word	Sublist	Question
Access	4	How do I **access** my student email account?
Accommodate	9	Can you describe your current **accommodation**? Do you think your university **accommodates** international students' cultural needs enough?
Accompany	8	Did anyone **accompany** you when you first came to New Zealand?
Accumulate	8	How can we stop the **accumulation** of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?
Accurate	6	How can you make your grammar more **accurate**?