

L e s s o n P l a n

Ambiguous headlines

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Level: *upper-intermediate / advanced*

Time: *about 20 minutes*

Aims: *speaking and writing practice, vocabulary - magazine headlines*

Resources: *Vocabulary Games and Activities 2 (activity no 53)*

Procedure:

- In a warm-up students are asked to explain the two meanings (one serious and the other funny) of *Kicking baby considered to be healthy*.
- After the meanings have been checked students are divided into four groups A-D using a grouping strategy, given a copy of the handout and explained the rules. The teacher decides which group start first and the game continues in a clockwise direction.
- A number is randomly called out (by a teacher) and the first group try to think of the two different meanings for the headline. If correct, everyone puts a cross through the square with the called number and writes in the letter of the group that gave the correct answer. If incorrect, the headline is supposed to be explained by some other group afterwards. The team with the highest number of 'squares' at the end is the winner.
- As an extension, students may be asked to write a short story using a headline and its meaning by their choice.

Acknowledgement: This is a modification of *20-square: Ambiguous headlines* by Peter Watcyn-Jones.