

ENGLISH BRAIN GAME SERIES



# VOCABULARY

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# FRAME GAMES

10

Low prep, reusable activities that build vocabulary skills.

BY ROB WHYTE B.A. M.SC.

# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS A FRAME GAME?

It is a low-prep classroom activity with a fixed structure and adaptable content. Structure refers to the rules of play and beneficial learning objectives. These elements are constant. Adaptability refers to the content. The core of the lesson - in this case, essential vocabulary - can be modified to meet the students' needs with minimal effort on the part of the teacher.

## WHY USE VOCABULARY FRAME GAMES?

To save time, improve classroom management and reinforce learning.

Here is a hard truth. Lesson planning takes time. Often unpaid time, so teachers are usually on the hunt for new ideas, materials and strategies that help them develop effective lesson plans efficiently. Vocabulary frame games save time by providing teachers with an adaptable activity that can be recycled multiple times.

Helping students stay mentally sharp in the classroom by changing the pace of learning is a critical part of classroom management. With a specific learning objective, flexible play format and short time requirement (often 10 minutes or less), vocabulary frame games can be molded to meet a variety of situational needs. They can be played in pairs, as a solitary activity or a whole class whiteboard game.

Frame games reinforce learning by providing students with a variety of opportunities to review vocabulary and introduce new words and phrases. Authorities like Penny Ur suggest students probably need to review a word ten times before they really learn it. If that's true, vocabulary frame games should be part of every teacher's repertoire.

Vocabulary frame games also provide teachers with a starting point for creative extension activities. What can you do with a list of words on the whiteboard? The number of possibilities is limited only by one's imagination, but here are three quick ideas. The teacher could ask students to:

- create a spontaneous dialogue using random words
- write a one paragraph story
- select a group of words and write five questions and answers featuring a target grammar point (e.g. the past tense)

Creative, flexible, beneficial and engaging.

These are the qualities I truly hope you and your students discover in Vocabulary Frame Games.

Enjoy.

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# 1. Build Compound Words

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A compound word is two words put together to make a new word. For example, look at these three words:

- hand, pipes, air

To each word, we can add BAG to make three new words, like these: **handbag, bagpipes, airbag.**

Below, each question has three words. What word can be added to make three compound words? The word can be placed in the front or the back.

---

## Level A

- |   |                       |       |    |                      |       |
|---|-----------------------|-------|----|----------------------|-------|
| 1 | pan, cup, fruit       | _____ | 6  | brush, paste, ache   | _____ |
| 2 | cloth, coffee, spoon  | _____ | 7  | club, mare, time     | _____ |
| 3 | burn, flower, glasses | _____ | 8  | market, man, highway | _____ |
| 4 | phone, ache, ring     | _____ | 9  | man, place, fly      | _____ |
| 5 | shell, shore, food    | _____ | 10 | stairs, town, sun    | _____ |

## Level B

- |    |                       |       |    |                     |       |
|----|-----------------------|-------|----|---------------------|-------|
| 11 | end, guide, scrap     | _____ | 16 | mate, side, come    | _____ |
| 12 | light, keeper, boat   | _____ | 17 | wild, guard, boat   | _____ |
| 13 | shoe, radish, power   | _____ | 18 | house, side, doors  | _____ |
| 14 | guest, hold, wife     | _____ | 19 | print, ball, wear   | _____ |
| 15 | battle, friend, wreck | _____ | 20 | switch, snow, white | _____ |

## 2. Solve Homophone Puzzles

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Homophones are words that have the same sound but different spellings and meanings. **Homo** means same and **phone** means sound. For example, **hear** and **here**.

Can you write one homophone for each word below?

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### Level A

1 nose \_\_\_\_\_

6 dear \_\_\_\_\_

2 its \_\_\_\_\_

7 four \_\_\_\_\_

3 mail \_\_\_\_\_

8 red \_\_\_\_\_

4 buy \_\_\_\_\_

9 new \_\_\_\_\_

5 meet \_\_\_\_\_

10 aunt \_\_\_\_\_

### Level B

11 hi \_\_\_\_\_

16 plain \_\_\_\_\_

12 in \_\_\_\_\_

17 pair \_\_\_\_\_

13 peace \_\_\_\_\_

18 pour \_\_\_\_\_

14 hire \_\_\_\_\_

19 oar \_\_\_\_\_

15 night \_\_\_\_\_

20 heal \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. PH Words with F Sounds

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The letters /ph/ sometimes make an /f/ sound. For example, **phone**. How many words can you write with a /ph/ spelling and an /f/ sound? Scoring: 10 or fewer words = oops. 11-19 = good. 20 or more = excellent.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

### 4. Word Race

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The box has 9 letters. How many words can you make with these letters?

There are 4 rules.

- Each word must have a T.
- Each word must have at least three letters.
- Use each letter once per word.
- Letters do not have to touch each other to make a word.

h	g	t
p	s	a
t	e	i

Can you make at least 10 words? The answer sheet has 74 words?

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## 5. Twist Anagrams

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An anagram is a word puzzle. Move the letters around. Make another word. Do not add other letters.

Here is an example: part - trap.

More than one answer is possible for some words.

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### Level A

1 meat \_\_\_\_\_

2 page \_\_\_\_\_

3 name \_\_\_\_\_

4 past \_\_\_\_\_

5 brake \_\_\_\_\_

6 steel \_\_\_\_\_

7 taste \_\_\_\_\_

8 able \_\_\_\_\_

9 cheap \_\_\_\_\_

10 keen \_\_\_\_\_

### Level B

11 tired \_\_\_\_\_

12 south \_\_\_\_\_

13 cruel \_\_\_\_\_

14 gates \_\_\_\_\_

15 note \_\_\_\_\_

16 late \_\_\_\_\_

17 news \_\_\_\_\_

18 false \_\_\_\_\_

19 garden \_\_\_\_\_

20 credit \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. From A to Z

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Read the clues. Write one word for each question

- 1 Starts with abo, opposite of below. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Starts with bre, humans do this to live. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Starts with cou, make this loud noise when you're sick. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Starts with dic, find the spelling of words in here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Starts with en, mail a letter in this. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Starts with flo, wheat powder used to make bread. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Starts with ga, a place to grow flowers. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Starts with hi, subject about past people and events. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Starts with ir, use this to make shirts look smooth. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Starts with ja, a month of the year. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Starts with ki, a place for cooking. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Starts with la, do this when you see something funny. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Starts with med, take this when you're sick. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 Starts with ne, opposite of far. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Starts with off, a place where people work. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Starts with pra, repeat again and again. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 Starts with qu, king's wife. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 Starts with re, study one more time. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 Starts with sto, when you eat, the food goes here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Starts with thu, the day after Wednesday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 Starts with um, carry this in the rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 22 Starts with vi, a musical instrument. \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 Starts with wa, this tells you the time. \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 Starts with x-, take a picture in the hospital. \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 Starts with yo, opposite of old. \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 Starts with ze, nothing. \_\_\_\_\_



## 7. Word Ladders

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Word ladders are word puzzles. For each question, you have a top word (the start) and a bottom word (the finish). Each time you move down the ladder, change one letter to make a word.

Here is an example.      Change tea to pot.  
tea - pea - pet - pot

cats	pens	rice
dogs	cars	cake

love	mail	jug
hate	send	can

## 8. What's the Connection?

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Each question has a pair of words. Look at the words and write another word which is connected to the two words. Here is an example: kangaroo - pants = pocket

- |   |                |       |    |                   |       |
|---|----------------|-------|----|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | lock - piano   | _____ | 6  | river - money     | _____ |
| 2 | ship - card    | _____ | 7  | bed - paper       | _____ |
| 3 | tree - car     | _____ | 8  | army - water      | _____ |
| 4 | school - eye   | _____ | 9  | tennis - noise    | _____ |
| 5 | pillow - court | _____ | 10 | Egyptian - mother | _____ |

## 9. Add an E

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The letter **E** was removed from these common words. You can see the remaining letters below. Add the E's to make words. For example: bf - beef.

- |   |       |       |   |      |       |   |      |       |
|---|-------|-------|---|------|-------|---|------|-------|
| 1 | dgr   | _____ | 4 | ndl  | _____ | 7 | lvn  | _____ |
| 2 | xcd   | _____ | 5 | lmnt | _____ | 8 | chs  | _____ |
| 3 | sntnc | _____ | 6 | rsvr | _____ | 9 | rlct | _____ |

## 10. Odd One Out

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Read the words on each line to your partner. Do not show the paper to your partner. Ask your partner to choose one word that is different and to explain the reasons with logic and facts. Do you have a different answer?

Any reason is okay as long as it is logical. There are no right or wrong answers. Just logical and illogical answers.

Student A

1	niece	uncle	aunt	grandmother
2	there	war	son	cake
3	ankle	liver	wrist	elbow
4	boots	glove	hat	scissors
5	make	build	create	draw

Student B

1	eagle	owl	bat	penguin
2	waited	walked	wanted	decided
3	fork	spoon	chopsticks	knife
4	purple	black	white	beige
5	sneeze	blink	yawn	whistle

# Answers

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## 1. Build Compound Words

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- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. cake  | 11. book  |
| 2. table | 12. house |
| 3. sun   | 13. horse |
| 4. ear   | 14. house |
| 5. sea   | 15. ship  |
| 6. tooth | 16. in    |
| 7. night | 17. life  |
| 8. super | 18. out   |
| 9. fire  | 19. foot  |
| 10. down | 20. board |

## 2. Solve Homophone Puzzles

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- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. knows  | 11. high   |
| 2. it's   | 12. inn    |
| 3. male   | 13. piece  |
| 4. by/bye | 14. higher |
| 5. high   | 15. knight |
| 6. meat   | 16. plane  |
| 7. deer   | 17. pear   |
| 8. for    | 18. pore   |
| 9. read   | 19. or     |
| 10. ant   | 20. heel   |

## 3. PH Words with F Sounds

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- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. alphabet    | 16. pharmacy    |
| 2. autograph   | 17. phase       |
| 3. dolphin     | 18. philosophy  |
| 4. elephant    | 19. phobia      |
| 5. emphasis    | 20. phone       |
| 6. geography   | 21. phonics     |
| 7. graph       | 22. photo       |
| 8. graphic     | 23. photograph  |
| 9. hyphen      | 24. photography |
| 10. nephew     | 25. phrase      |
| 11. microphone | 26. physical    |
| 12. orphan     | 27. telephone   |
| 13. orphanage  | 28. trophy      |
| 14. pamphlet   | 29. typhoon     |
| 15. phantom    | 30. xylophone   |

## 4. Word Race

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- |            |               |            |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. apt     | 26. pate      | 51. stage  |
| 2. ate     | 27. pates     | 52. state  |
| 3. atheist | 28. path      | 53. step   |
| 4. east    | 29. paths     | 54. tag    |
| 5. eat     | 30. pats      | 55. tags   |
| 6. eats    | 31. patties   | 56. tap    |
| 7. eight   | 32. peat      | 57. tape   |
| 8. gait    | 33. pest      | 58. tapes  |
| 9. gate    | 34. pet       | 59. taps   |
| 10. gates  | 35. pets      | 60. taste  |
| 11. get    | 36. pit       | 61. tat    |
| 12. gets   | 37. pita      | 62. tats   |
| 13. haste  | 38. pitas     | 63. tea    |
| 14. hat    | 39. pits      | 64. teas   |
| 15. hate   | 40. sat       | 65. test   |
| 16. hates  | 41. seat      | 66. that   |
| 17. hats   | 42. set       | 67. the    |
| 18. heat   | 43. sight     | 68. this   |
| 19. heats  | 44. sit       | 69. tie    |
| 20. hit    | 45. site      | 70. ties   |
| 21. hits   | 46. spaghetti | 71. tight  |
| 22. its    | 47. spat      | 72. tights |
| 23. past   | 48. spit      | 73. tip    |
| 24. paste  | 49. spite     | 74. tips   |
| 25. pat    | 50. stag      |            |

## 5. Twist Anagrams

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- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. mate, tame       | 11. tried      |
| 2. gape             | 12. shout      |
| 3. mane, mean       | 13. ulcer      |
| 4. spat, taps, pats | 14. stage      |
| 5. break, baker     | 15. tone       |
| 6. sleet            | 16. tale, teal |
| 7. state            | 17. sewn       |
| 8. bale             | 18. fleas      |
| 9. peach            | 19. danger     |
| 10. knee            | 20. direct     |

## 6. From A to Z

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- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. above      | 14. near     |
| 2. breath     | 15. office   |
| 3. cough      | 16. practice |
| 4. dictionary | 17. queen    |
| 5. envelope   | 18. review   |
| 6. flour      | 19. stomach  |
| 7. garden     | 20. Thursday |
| 8. history    | 21. umbrella |
| 9. iron       | 22. violin   |
| 10. January   | 23. watch    |
| 11. kitchen   | 24. x-ray    |
| 12. laugh     | 25. young    |
| 13. medicine  | 26. zero     |

## 7. Word Ladders

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- cats - cots - dots - dogs
- pens - pans - cans - cars
- rice - race - rake - cake
- love - cove - cave - have - hate
- mail - sail - said - sand - send
- jug - bug - bag - ban - can

## 8. What's the Connection?

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- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. key   | 6. bank   |
| 2. deck  | 7. sheet  |
| 3. trunk | 8. tank   |
| 4. pupil | 9. racket |
| 5. case  | 10. mummy |

## 9. Add an E

---

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. degree   | 6. reserve  |
| 2. exceed   | 7. eleven   |
| 3. sentence | 8. cheese   |
| 4. needle   | 9. re-elect |
| 5. element  |             |

## 10. Odd One Out

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Student A

1. Uncle is different. Uncle is always a man. The others are always women.
2. Cake is different. The word *cake* has no homonym. The other words have homonyms. For example: there - their, they're; war - wore; son - sun.
3. Liver is different. Liver is an organ. The others are joints.
4. Hat is different. Hat is usually a single object. The others are usually described as a pair of objects (e.g. a pair of scissors).
5. Create is different. Create is a regular verb. The others are irregular verbs.

Student B

1. Penguin is different. A penguin is a bird that can't fly. The other birds can fly.
2. Walked is different. The final sound in *walked* sounds like a *T*. The other words have a final sound like *ID*.
3. Chopsticks are different. Chopsticks are usually used in pairs. The other utensils are usually used as single objects.
4. Purple is different. The word *purple* has two syllables. The other words have one syllable each.
5. Whistle is different. Whistle is a voluntary action (i.e. we decide to do that). The others are involuntary actions (i.e. we do them without thinking).