





30. Which One is Different?

 15-25 minutes	 Intermediate +
 Fluency, creative thinking	
 Worksheets 4-3 and 4-4	

IDEA

Which One is Different? (sometimes called *Odd One Out*) is a staple in the ESL world because it generates heaps of meaningful output. The real magic of this activity takes place after teachers nudge students to describe creative answers, not just the obvious ones.

SET UP

Photocopy Worksheets 4-3 a/b for students (Worksheet 4-4 a/b for higher level students).

FLOW

Explain this is an exercise to build speaking, listening and thinking skills. Point out that each paper has a table with rows. Each row has four words.

- Student A reads one row of four words.
- Student B listens.
- Student B chooses one word which is different and explains why. Any answer is possible as long as it is logical (i.e. students can't say, "Cats are different because I don't cats but I like the other animals.")
- Students rotate asking and answering questions until complete.

Stress there are no right or wrong answers, just well reasoned answers and illogical answers. Encourage partners to offer alternate answers.

Discourage students from reading each other's paper in order to build listening and thinking skills.

TIP

Some creative answers might be based grammatical or lexical points. While monitoring student activity, offer hints by explaining some of these concepts:

1. syllables
2. homophones
3. antonyms
4. synonyms
5. collocations
6. chunks
7. final sounds
8. irregular verbs
9. adjectives
10. nouns
11. verbs

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

A-1

1. Elephant is not a pet. The others are house pets.
2. Saturday has three syllables. The other words have two syllables.
3. Uncle is a male. The others are female.
4. Book has a final /k/ sound. The other words start with a /k/ sound.
5. Chopsticks are used in pairs. The other utensils have one piece.
6. Hockey uses a puck. The other sports use a ball.

B-1

1. Penguins can't fly. The other animals can fly.
2. A bus can't fly. The others can fly.
3. Carrots has a final /s/ sound. The other words have a final /z/ sound.
4. Corn has one syllable. The other words have two syllables.
5. Purple has two syllables. The other colours have one syllable.
6. Blue has two meanings (i.e. colour/sad). The other words have one meaning.

A-2

1. Cake has no homophone. The other words have homophones (e.g. their, wore, sun).
2. Walked has a final /t/ sound. The other words have a final /id/ sound.
3. Light has a long vowel sound. The other words have a short vowel sound.
4. Umbrella is something we carry. We wear the other things.
5. Break is a verb. The others are nouns and are parts of an egg.
6. Food has a long vowel sound. The other words have a short vowel sound.

B-2

1. Wavy is a hair style. The other words are colours.
2. Swim is something to do in the water. The other actions are on the land.
3. Climb is a regular verb. The other words are irregular verbs.
4. Paris is a city. The other places are countries.
5. Hot chocolate is always hot. The other drinks can be hot or cold.
6. Liver is an organ. The other body parts are joints.

Worksheet 4-3 Which One is Different? - A1

Read the words on a line to your partner. Do not show your paper. Ask your partner to choose a word that is different and explain why. Can you think of a different answer?

1	cat	dog	turtle	elephant
2	Tuesday	Saturday	July	Friday
3	sister	uncle	aunt	grandmother
4	color	key	book	king
5	fork	spoon	chopsticks	knife
6	baseball	soccer	ping pong	hockey

Worksheet 4-3 Which One is Different? - B1

Read the words on each line to your partner. Do not show your paper. Ask your partner to choose a word that is different and explain why. Can you think of a different answer?

1	eagle	owl	bat	penguin
2	helicopter	airplane	bus	bird
3	peas	carrots	beans	cheese
4	cabbage	kiwi	corn	lettuce
5	purple	black	white	red
6	blue	do	glue	review

Worksheet 4-4 Which One is Different? - A2

Read the words on each line to your partner. Do not show your paper. Ask your partner to choose a word that is different and explain why. Can you think of a different answer?

1	there	war	son	cake
2	waited	walked	wanted	decided
3	desk	bed	chair	light
4	umbrella	belt	boots	suit
5	white	shell	break	yolk
6	food	wood	good	hood

Worksheet 4-4 Which One is Different? - B2

Read the words on each line to your partner. Do not show your paper. Ask your partner to choose a word that is different and explain why. Can you think of a different answer?

1	blonde	gray	wavy	dark brown
2	hike	swim	jog	dance
3	throw	hit	catch	climb
4	Germany	Paris	China	England
5	soy milk	tea	coffee	hot chocolate
6	ankle	liver	wrist	elbow