

Binomial Pelmanism – Teacher’s Notes

Level: Upper-intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2)

Aim: For students to practice binomials by playing a game of pelmanism and then personalizing the lexis.

Vocabulary: Recycling binomials

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of two to three students. Cut up the cards.

Procedure:

1. **Set up.** Put students in pairs or threes and give each group a set of cards.
2. Explain the rules: *Spread or lay the cards out on a flat surface. Take turns to play. Turn two cards of your choice face up. If they make a binomial expression, take the cards and store them in front of you, and take another turn. If they do not match, you turn them face down, without changing their position in the layout, and it is the next player's turn. The player with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.*
3. **Class feedback.** Check that all the binomial expressions are correct by asking students to read out their matches. Ask: *Who made the most matches? Were there any binomials that were difficult to remember?*
4. **Personalization.** Ask students to use at least six of the binomials to tell a story about their lives. Give them a few minutes to make notes of their stories. In pairs, students take turns exchanging stories. Teacher circulates to provide support and take notes for feedback.
5. **Class feedback.** Students summarize their partners’ stories for the group and explain what they thought was the most interesting point.
6. **Teacher feedback.** Give students feedback on their language production.
7. **Extension activity.** Students quiz each other on the binomials by holding up one of the cards and allowing the other student to tell them the missing word.

Answer key

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| bits and pieces | here and now |
| black and white | long and hard |
| born and bred | pick and choose |
| down and out | short and sweet |
| flesh and blood | sick and tired |
| forgive and forget | to and fro |