



How Can TEFL Teachers Turn Difficult Words into a Pronunciation Game?

S06E24 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

We can give learners a clue, let them find the word and make pronunciation the second part of the challenge. In S06E24, Gav tries X, Y and Z words with Em, who turns the difficult vocabulary into a treasure-hunt idea: one point for finding the answer and another for saying it.

Our suggested routine

1. Choose words whose pronunciation creates a real but manageable challenge.
2. Prepare a short definition, clue or spelling for each word.
3. Ask learners to identify the word before checking pronunciation.
4. If retrieval is too difficult, turn the task into a search or treasure hunt.
5. Award separate points for finding the word and pronouncing it accurately.
6. Use beats, taps or another physical cue if word stress needs extra attention.
7. Simplify the vocabulary for lower levels without changing the game structure.

After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

Notes for our next lesson

Read the full teaching article and listen to the episode at howtoenglishpod.com