

03 The yes/no game

Skills

Speaking and listening: listening, speaking clearly

This game is designed to test your listening skills. It requires high levels of concentration if you are to win.

1 Read the rules of the game below:

For the yes/no game you need to be able to answer questions about topics you know about. That makes it sound easy – it isn't!

What's difficult is that your answers must **not** use the words 'yes' or 'no'. So if your questioner says 'Are you a boy?', you can't simply say 'yes' or 'no'. Instead you have to find other words – except that you can't keep repeating them. You can't just say 'I am' each time. The rules are that you can only use a phrase once. You can't, therefore, keep saying 'I don't know': you need to be more creative than that. Good luck.

- 2** Get into groups of three. One of you is the questioner and one the answerer. The third person times the activity (60 seconds) and gives advice and feedback. You will change roles during the game.
- 3** Discuss the kinds of questions you need to ask to get the answerer to say 'yes' or 'no'.
- 4** Discuss the kinds of phrases you might use for giving answers that don't use 'yes' or 'no'.
- 5** Have a practice round for 60 seconds and see how it goes.

6 Start the game:

- Questioner – ask questions for 60 seconds.
- Answerer – answer the questions without saying 'yes' or 'no'.
- Timer – keep time and listen out for 'yes/no' answers or repetition.

7 What are the secrets of success? Make notes below.

