

## 19. Pass the bomb

The greatest single investment I have ever made as an ESL teacher. The bomb never fails to inject life and excitement into the most tired and sluggish classrooms.

### When to play

If the lesson's starting to drag, or towards the end of the class to send them off with a smile on their face and a spring in their step.

### How to play

Pass the Bomb is a simple word game. In the box, you get a little battery powered bomb and a pack of illustrated cards which show different situations or locations (On the dining table, In the bathroom, At the beach, etc.)

Take a card at 'random' (sometimes I fix the game according to the level of the students or vocabulary I want to practice), for example, In a suitcase and show it to the students. Give them a few moments to digest the theme and then press the little red button on the bottom of the bomb. The bomb will start ticking.

Pass the ticking time-bomb to the first student who has to say a word connected to the subject, for example, sun cream, he/she then passes the bomb as quickly as possible to the next student in the circle who must say a different word connected to the theme, and so on.

After a gap of between 20 and 120 seconds, the bomb goes 'off' with an explosive sound effect. The person holding the bomb when it explodes gets the card which is in play and the game restarts with the next person and a new card.

The winner is the person with the fewest cards after the final round.

