

Word games to play at home

These word games can be played anywhere by all family members. As well as being fun, they also help to develop vocabulary.

Word rounds

Choose **one** of the following:

- a noun category – for example, **animals**
- an attribute – for example, things that are **shiny**
- an action – for example, something you can **cut**
- a place – for example, a **beach**.

Go round the circle, asking each person for items that fit the description. Encourage complete answers, such as 'I can cut paper', 'I can cut my hair.' An example for 'things that we find at the beach' might be: 'At the beach I found ... **sand, pebbles, sea, ice-cream** and **towels**.'

What did you see in the picture?

Present a busy picture with lots happening in it. Everyone should look at it closely. After a few moments, remove it from view and then take it in turns to recall what they saw in as much detail as possible. If they cannot remember all of the items, give useful clues such as what the object can do or its category, rather than what it looks like.

'I Spy' variation

This is a variation on the traditional 'I Spy' game. You can adapt it by using adjectives (describing words) instead, such as, 'I spy something coloured **red / blue ...**' or 'something **round / spiky / shiny ...**' or 'I spy something that is **big / beautiful / smelly / growing / hot / noisy ...**'

Category call-out

On the bus or in the car, think of a category. You can choose any topic but here are some ideas for inspiration: 'living things', 'things with wheels', 'things with circles' or 'things made of metal'. Work as a team to see how many things you can see in a set time, such as two minutes. Next time, see if you can beat your previous total.

I went shopping

This game is good for developing memory, so it is good for adults too. One person starts by saying, 'I went shopping and I bought ...' (names a food item). The second player says, 'I went shopping and I bought ...' and repeats the first player's item before adding their own. The third player continues saying the first two items before adding their own. And so on. See how many items you can remember. A variation of this game is 'I went on holiday and I packed ...'