

Memory blocks

Make the memory chain game even harder by incorporating building a tower of blocks! Start by designating a vocabulary group, say one piece of vocabulary and place a block on to another block. The next learner says the previous words, adds a new word, and places an additional block. After a few minutes the learners will be trying to remember a huge chain of words, while also trying to carefully place blocks without the tower falling!

Number of learners: 3+	Time: 5 minutes
Student type: aged 9-12, aged 12-15, 15-18, adults	Type: Memory game, Active game
Materials: Blocks to stack, possibly flashcards of realia that could be used to demonstrate the game.	Language: Vocabulary groups and verb phrases <i>'I have a dog'</i> <i>'I have a dog, and a cat'</i> <i>'I have a dog, a cat and a fish'</i>



Why play this game?

- Fun
- Great review exercise for vocabulary
- Possible to practice a range of different vocabulary groups
- Challenging, learners have to keep the tower up!



How to play

- Having designated a vocabulary group (for example, transport) chorally drill and transformation drill the language point you wish to practice for example, *'I like dogs', 'I like frogs'*
- Repeat the language point once *'I have a dog'*, and place a block on to another block.
- Next say a learner name's name and say your own language point and an additional idea, for example *'Okay, Kota's turn, I have a dog and a monkey.* Place another block on top of the rest
- Do this once more with another learner in the group to portray the need to repeat previously spoken vocabulary in a chain.
- Have a practice run. Once you're confident that learners understand the game, play the game and see how long you can make the chain, but don't knock down the tower!
- The game ends when the tower is knocked over.
- This game can be simplified by playing the game purely with nouns. Additionally, it can be made harder by playing it with different language, for example past participle verb forms. For example, *'I've been to Canada, I've met Michael Jackson, I've played football'*

