

(British Parliament) Hearts Game



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Level intended: B1 or higher (the language level depends on the level of the material and the difficulty of the questions)

Age intended: 15 – 19 (the age depends on the material chosen)

Aim: to check reading or listening comprehension

Exercise type: listening (Activity 1) or reading (Activity 2), a game

Time: 45 minutes

Language: parliament (see Activity 1) or crime (see Activity 2)

Tip: As the activities suggest, you can play the game anytime as reading comprehension or listening comprehension (even after a lecture). It is also perfect as a revision of various topics or areas of vocabulary.

Source of the Hearts Game and Parliament Video Questions: Used with permission of Esther Western-Thomas, Senior Teacher/Senior Trainer at IPC Exeter. However, the idea to combine these two into the following activities is mine.

(British Parliament) Hearts Game

Activity 1: British Parliament

Level intended: B2 – C1

Age: 18 – 19

Exercise type: listening comprehension

Length of the video: 8:26

Video can be found as: “An Introduction to Parliament” on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/RAMblz3Y2JA>

Material: Make copies of Parliament Video Questions (see the following page)

Language: politics, parliament in the UK (The House of Lords/Commons, Opposition, a bill, a law, a Select Committee, peers)

Instructions:

- 1 Pre-teach some vocabulary the students might need to understand before they watch the video.
- 2 Hand out one copy of the Parliament Video Questions per student. Allow them to read the questions before they watch the video.
- 3 Play the YouTube video.
- 4 Now the students are split into three groups.
- 5 Play the Hearts Game. Call out one group and the number of the question. One of the students has to read the question and they have a couple of moments to give the answer. Continue the game. Follow the instructions for the Hearts Game.

(British Parliament) Hearts Game

Parliament Video Questions

1. When was the first UK Parliament?
 2. What are the three parts of Parliament?
 3. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons?
 4. What does each MP represent?
 5. What is the Cabinet?
 6. What are the parties not in power called?
 7. Who is the Speaker?
 8. How many peers sit in the House of Lords?
 9. How often does the monarch meet the Prime Minister?
 10. Name 2 behind-the-scene jobs at Parliament.
 11. What is a Select Committee?
 12. What is a green paper?
 13. What is the term for making the bill a law?
 14. How often are General Elections held?
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Materials for the Hearts Game: You need a board marker, 12 magnets, 12 questions the teacher asks and 12 pictures (4 hearts, 4 guns, 4 bombs) on card-stock paper, which is not translucent, because you wish to prevent the students from seeing which picture they should opt for.

Instructions for the Hearts Game:

- 1 Split the students into three teams.
- 2 Draw this chart on the board. Each of the 12 (highlighted) squares represents one question that you are going to ask and must be big enough so that you can attach a picture (face towards the board) with a magnet. The students must not know which square has a heart/a gun/a bomb.

	A	B	C	D
1				
2				
3				

- 3 Explain that as a group they start with three lives. Draw them on the board:

1	♥	♥	♥
2	♥	♥	♥
3	♥	♥	♥

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- 4 The first group chooses a square (e. g. 1B) and a question is asked. If they answer incorrectly, nothing happens. If they answer correctly, you turn the picture. If it is a ♥, they get an extra life:

1 ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

If it is a 🗑️, they lose a life (=you erase it):

1 ♥ ♥

If it is a ⚡, they take a life from another team. They have to say which team will lose one life and you will erase one of their lives.

- 5 The winner is the team with the highest number of lives.

Activity 2: Three Famous Crimes

Level intended: B1

Age: 15 – 19

Exercise type: reading comprehension

Language: crime

Material: Three texts about famous crimes in Britain can be found on

<https://esol.britishcouncil.org/content/learners/uk-life/be-safe-uk/three-famous-crimes>

(British Parliament) Hearts Game

- Instructions:**
- 1 Divide the students into groups of three. Each of them is going to read a different text. If you cannot divide the class into groups of three, make bigger groups (two students read one version of the text).
 - 2 The students read their text and try to remember the details. Set a time limit.
 - 3 The students are split into three teams. Meanwhile, prepare the Hearts Game on the board.
 - 4 Start playing the game. Ask the questions below. If there are two students who have read the same text in one group, make sure each of them answers one of the two questions.

My questions about Three Famous Crimes:

1. How many men stopped a Travelling Post Office Train on the 8th August 1963? What time did they stop the train?
2. How did they stop the train? How much money did they steal?
3. What happened to the money? Did the police find it?
4. How did the police find out about the gang? What evidence was found?
5. For how long was Ronnie Biggs sent to prison? How did he escape?
6. Who was Michael Fagan and whose bedroom did he get into?
7. What did Michael Fagan have to climb to get to the private rooms? Did he speak to the Queen?
8. When did the queen call one of the staff? What was the decision of the court?
9. What did Harold Shipman do? What qualities was he believed to have?
10. What punishment did he get in 2000? How did he end up?
11. How many people did he kill? How many people do the police think he killed?
12. Where and how did he usually kill his patients?