Collocation / Lexical phrase recycling game: Family Fortunes

This game can be used at the end of a unit/course/school year to recycle the lexical phrases and collocations students have been working with. It is best played as a group with two teams (preferably 4-5 in a group).

Procedure:

1. Put students into two teams and have them assign a team captain.

2. The two team captains are then asked a question that only they can answer. The quickest correct answer wins – the team captain that is the quickest wins the choice of playing first or second.

3. The team that goes first are given a question. All students must answer the question. Answers are scored according to popularity. The most popular answer wins 5 points, the second most popular wins 4 points and so on. If the team give three incorrect answers, the questions are then passed to the second team, who try to complete the rest of the board.

4. The second question is then passed to the second team and conducted in the same manner as in step 3.

5. In the second round, in which the team with the highest score goes first, the questions are delivered in the same way. However, in this round, while all students make suggestions and guesses, the team captain can select only one answer. The question is then passed to the second team, who answer in the same way. The round continues like this until the board is completed or until a team has made three mistakes.

6. At the end of the game, the team with the most points wins.

7. As an optional end to the game, the two team captains are given 2 minutes to answer a question. They cannot have help from their team mates. The team captain with the most points wins that round.

The two types of game:

Open: This game does not focus on linguistic units, but more on association and categories. I have included a set of these questions in this post. Questions, for example, can be: “Something you take on holiday”.

Closed: These can be questions that are based on verbs and nouns from the unit/course. For example: “5 verbs that go with flat”, “5 things you do with money”, or “something you put up” This works particularly well with de-lexicalized verbs and at higher levels. Alternatively, you could have students look through their lexical notebook and write their own questions at home, ready for the opposing team in the next lesson.

Using the board:

In order to reveal the answers to your students, you might choose to use a ppt. Alternatively, you could write the answers to the questions on the board and cover each answer with a single strip of paper. Ensure, however, that you have the answers on a piece of paper in front of you, so you know which pieces of paper to remove!

Youtube:

If you would like a clearer idea of how the game is played out, follow the link to the British version of the TV show: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOMU6W_CYyU

Matt Vesty 2015
Below are a few example questions that have been roughly adapted from the Outcomes series of textbooks.

### Elementary: Open

| 1. Something people do at the weekend | 1. Go shopping (5 points)  
|  | 2. Go for a walk (4)  
|  | 3. Do the housework (3)  
|  | 4. Watch TV (2)  
|  | 5. Do some sport (1)  
| 2. A daily routine / chore / housework | 1. Do the washing up (5)  
|  | 2. Do the vacuuming (4)  
|  | 3. Walk the dog (3)  
|  | 4. Clean the floor (2)  
|  | 5. Wash the car (1)  
| 3. Things you do with money | 1. Spend it (5)  
|  | 2. Earn / Make it (4)  
|  | 3. Waste it (3)  
|  | 4. Save it (2)  
|  | 5. Lend (1)  
| 4. Something you find in a city centre | 1. Shopping centre (5)  
|  | 2. Train station (4)  
|  | 3. Church (3)  
|  | 4. Supermarket (2)  
|  | 5. A river (1)  
| 5. Something you might share | 1. A flat (5)  
|  | 2. A pizza (4)  
|  | 3. A taxi (3)  
|  | 4. An idea (2)  
|  | 5. An opinion (1)  

### Pre-Intermediate: Open

| 1. An important event in someone's life | 1. A birthday (5)  
|  | 2. Getting married (4)  
|  | 3. A wedding anniversary (3)  
|  | 4. Being born (2)  
|  | 5. First day of school (1)  
| 2. A summer hobby | 1. Playing football (5)  
|  | 2. Going Swimming (4)  
|  | 3. Going for a walk (3)  
|  | 4. Going skateboarding (2)  
|  | 5. Having a barbecue (1)  
| 3. Things that only two people can do | 1. Play tennis (5)  
|  | 2. Kiss (4)  
|  | 3. Play chess (3)  
|  | 4. Shake hands (2)  
|  | 5. Hug (1)  

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### Intermediate: Open

| 1. Things you use a computer for | 1. Writing emails (5)  
2. Surfing the net (4)  
3. Watching films (3)  
4. Chatting to friends (2)  
5. Booking tickets (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2. What children don’t like about school | 1. Doing homework (5)  
2. Strict teachers (4)  
3. Detention (3)  
4. Waking up early (2)  
5. School dinners (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 3. Things you take on holiday | 1. Suitcase (5)  
2. Passport (4)  
3. Suntan lotion (3)  
4. Bikini / Swimwear (2)  
5. Your family (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 4. Things you do with your pet | 1. Feed it (5)  
2. Walk it (4)  
3. Stroke it (3)  
4. Play with it (2)  
5. Talk to it (1) |

### Upper Intermediate: Open

| 1. Biggest problems in the world | 1. War (5)  
2. Poverty (4)  
3. Famine (3)  
4. Inequality (2)  
5. Natural disasters (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Most common committed crimes | 1. Speeding (5)  
2. Burglary (4)  
3. Fraud (3)  
4. Murder (2)  
5. Theft (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 3. Complaints in a restaurant | 5. Food is cold (5)  
4. Food is overcooked (4)  
3. Service is poor (3)  
2. Food is expensive (2)  
1. No seating (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 4. Something you use to put something on a wall | 1. Pins (5)  
2. Blu-tack / Sticky gum (4)  
3. Cello tape / Scotch tape (3)  
4. Nails (2)  
5. Glue (1) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 5. Things you might need if you hurt yourself | 1. A plaster (5)  
2. A bandage (4)  
3. A doctor (3)  
4. The hospital (2)  
5. Crutches (1) |