

## 7 Vocabulary Games to Play with High School Students

### Conversation Competition:

Have students get into pairs. When the teacher says go, students stand up and have a specific amount of time to talk with their partners on an appropriate subject. They must use at least 10 of their vocabulary words during the conversation and mark them as they use the words. When they've used 10, they sit down. The teacher should circulate the room throughout the game to engage students in conversation and ensure students are on task. You can offer a prize to the first pair who finishes, if they share their conversation with the class and correctly used the words.

### Bingo:

Have students create bingo cards, placing vocabulary words in the various places on the card. The teacher then reads the definitions of the word. If the students have that word, they'll color in the box on their cards where it exists (or cover with a small token, etc.). Any variation of typical Bingo can apply.

### Ratings:

This activity can be done individually or in partners. Give students a situation that includes a vocabulary word, and ask students to rate how happy they would be (or the amount of energy required for an action/activity, the cost, etc.). If working in partners, allow time for them to discuss their thoughts related to the word. *Example:* How happy would you be if your employer did not **compensate** you for your work? (1 = not happy, 5 = overjoyed)

### Talk a Mile a Minute:

Have students get with a partner. One student faces the screen/board and the other should have their back to the screen. The game is similar to the \$25,000 Pyramid game. A list of 6-8 words will be displayed; you give them the topic that the words relate to (economics, geometry, etc.). The students facing the screen will give their partners clues to help them guess the words (starting at the bottom and continuing to the top of the list). The first team to get all the words on the list wins the round.

### Pictionary:

Create a list of vocabulary words that have been taught throughout the unit, and put each word on a piece of paper. Divide the class into two teams. One student draws a card and begins drawing a representation of the word, without using numbers or letters. For 2 minutes, members of their team make guesses based on the drawing. After 2 minutes, the other team may also make guesses. The team who answers correctly earns a point for their team. Continue having the teams take turns as time allows.

**Headbands:**

Have students get into groups of 6. The groups get a stack of cards with one vocabulary word written on each card. Each student tapes a word card to his/her forehead (students can also choose to hold the card instead). The other group members give clues to the student to guess (without giving away word parts, letters, or rhyming words). The first group to have all students guess their word correctly wins!

**Memory:**

Create two sets of cards- one with the vocabulary words, and the other with the corresponding definition. Students can work in partners or small groups. Have them shuffle the cards and place them face down in an array. Students then take turns flipping over two cards. If they flip over a match (the word and its meaning) they get to keep the two cards. If they aren't a match, they flip the cards back over and the next person takes a turn. Play continues until all the cards are gone.

**To find detailed explanations and more games, visit these websites:**

[http://www.psd1.org/cms/lib4/WA01001055/Centricity/Domain/30/Talk\\_a\\_Mile\\_a\\_Minute.pdf](http://www.psd1.org/cms/lib4/WA01001055/Centricity/Domain/30/Talk_a_Mile_a_Minute.pdf)

<http://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/teaching-strategies/five-ways-to-make-teaching-high-school-vocabulary-fun-and-interesting/>

<https://www.flocabulary.com/vocabulary-mini-games/>

<http://www.theliterarymaven.com/2014/09/a-peek-at-my-week-929.html>

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/BAV-MoreGames.pdf>

<http://www.kayedstudio.com/whats-new/using-pictionary-to-review-vocabulary-words>

<http://www.notsowimpyteacher.com/2016/11/10-games-to-play-with-any-vocabulary.html>