

Academic Word List collocation dominoes

Instructions for teachers

Cut and shuffle up one pack of dominoes per group of two to four students, only cutting down the middle vertically so that each domino has two cells and so two words, e.g. "attitude/ widespread" on one card. Students deal out up to seven cards each and place one card face up on the table. They then play a normal game of dominoes, but with a match being two words that go together in that order (e.g. "welfare" on the right of one card joining with "benefits" on the left of the next card) and with usually only one match being possible for each. The winner is the first person with no cards in their hand or the person who has fewest cards left when no more matches are possible.

Before, after or instead of dominoes, students could work together to put all of the cards in a big circle, then give out the worksheet for them to check and to ask about any words and collocations they are not sure about.

Cards to cut into dominoes

attitude	widespread	support	welfare
benefits	voluntary	agreements	visual
impairment	shared	vision	visible
progress	virtual	standstill	violate
human rights	via	email	original
version	vehicle	emissions	vary
widely	valid	reasons	unique
opportunity	uniform	approach	undertake
reform	undergo	surgery	ultimate
aim	retain	control	rigid