ESL games for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-11-07

The best ESL games for kids start with pictures and sounds. Peabody's picture word cards say a word aloud and the child taps the matching picture, with 22 topics and a Spanish pair for every word. Then come books, typing and spelling. All free, with no sign-up.

ESL games by how much English your child has

- If your child…: Knows no English yet · Start with: Picture word cards · Then: Trace letters and preschool learning games
- If your child…: Knows some words · Start with: Food and school cards · Then: Books you can sound out
- If your child…: Can read a little · Start with: Sight word stories · Then: Typing games and Spelling Bee

Knows no English yet

Start with pictures and sounds. Nothing on these needs reading: Peabody says the word aloud and the child taps the picture.

- What: Picture word cards · What a child does: Peabody says a word, the child taps the matching picture. 22 topics, 12 words each, with a Spanish pair for every word. · Ages: 3 to 10
- What: Animals cards · What a child does: Cat, dog, cow, duck and more: the first words most children want. · Ages: 3 to 8
- What: Colors cards · What a child does: Red, blue, yellow and the rest, shown as swatches. · Ages: 3 to 7
- What: Numbers cards · What a child does: Count the dots and hear the English number. · Ages: 3 to 7
- What: Body cards · What a child does: Head, hand, foot, nose: words a child can point to on themselves. · Ages: 3 to 8
- What: Family cards · What a child does: Mother, father, sister, brother, grandma and more. · Ages: 3 to 8
- What: Trace letters · What a child does: Trace the English capital letters with a finger, starting with the first letter of your name. · Ages: 3 to 6
- What: Preschool learning games · What a child does: Tap-to-play games where every question is said aloud, so no reading is needed. · Ages: 3 to 5
- What: Mouse practice · What a child does: Learn to point, click and drag, with a few English words said along the way. · Ages: 3 to 7

Knows some English

- What: Food cards · What a child does: Words for the table, a good set to practise at mealtimes. · Ages: 3 to 9
- What: School cards · What a child does: Words for the classroom, for a child about to start school in English. · Ages: 5 to 10
- What: Feelings cards · What a child does: Happy, sad, tired, scared: words for saying how you are. · Ages: 4 to 10
- What: Books you can sound out · What a child does: Free picture books from level 0 up, the easiest first, in the English wing of the library. · Ages: 4 to 10
- What: Beginning reader books · What a child does: Short books with few words a page, for the first months of reading. · Ages: 4 to 8
- What: Decodable readers · What a child does: Books made only of sounds a child has been taught, so every word can be sounded out. · Ages: 4 to 8

Can read a little

- What: Sight word stories · What a child does: Stories that repeat the small words children meet most, such as the, said and was. · Ages: 5 to 9
- What: Sight word checklist · What a child does: A checklist of the common words, to tick off as a child learns each one. · Ages: 5 to 9
- What: The library · What a child does: Free stories by reading level, to read alone or aloud, with no account. · Ages: 6 to 12
- What: Typing games · What a child does: Learn the keyboard and spell English words at the same time. · Ages: 7 to 12
- What: Wordle for kids · What a child does: Guess the five-letter word, with short words for younger children. · Ages: 7 to 12
- What: Spelling Bee · What a child does: Spelling words by grade, said aloud, to practise and quiz. · Ages: 7 to 12
- What: Grammar, one skill at a time · What a child does: Eighteen grammar skills, each with a one-sentence definition, examples and three questions with answers. · Ages: 6 to 12
- What: Nouns · What a child does: Words that name a person, a place, an animal or a thing, with three questions to try. · Ages: 6 to 10
- What: Verbs · What a child does: Action words such as run, eat and jump, and the verbs is, am and are. · Ages: 6 to 10
- What: Capital letters · What a child does: Where English uses a capital: the first word, the word I, names, days and months. · Ages: 6 to 10
- What: Plural nouns · What a child does: How English shows more than one: cats, boxes, children. · Ages: 6 to 10
- What: Past tense verbs · What a child does: How English shows that something already happened: played, stopped, ran. · Ages: 7 to 11

• What: Contractions · What a child does: Short forms people say all day: don't, she's, we'll. · Ages: 7 to 11
• What: Prepositions · What a child does: Small words for where and when: in, on, under, before, after. · Ages: 7 to 12

How to play

Sit next to your child for the first few minutes and say each word after Peabody does. Five to ten minutes a day works better than one long hour. If a word is wrong, nothing bad happens: the card comes round again. By age: 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10.

Everything here is free, with no ads, no sign-up and nothing to download. Nothing about your child is sent anywhere.

Questions parents ask

What are the best games to teach English to a child who knows none?

Picture word cards. Peabody says a word and the child taps the matching picture, so there is nothing to read and nothing to translate. Every word has a Spanish pair for families who speak it.

Do the games work without a good English speaker at home?

Yes. Peabody says every word aloud, in a clear voice, and the child can hear it again as often as they like.

What age are they for?

About 3 to 10. The age pages list what suits each year.

Are they free?

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Do they need a sign-up or an app?

No. They open in a web browser on a phone, tablet or computer, and a child's progress stays on that device.

Free at peabody.kids/english/esl-games-for-kids