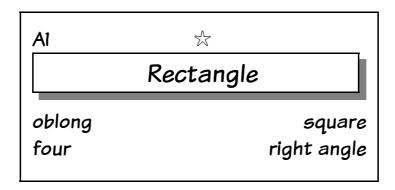
Forbidden Words

This game is a fun way of starting or ending a lesson.

The idea of the game is for one player to try and describe an object, idea or phrase without using certain **forbidden words**. The other players have to try and guess the word.

Example



Barry picks out this card. He has to describe 'rectangle' without using the words 'oblong', 'square', 'four', or 'right angle'. Emma is trying to guess the word. A game could go like this...

Barry: It's a shape with straight sides...

Emma: A triangle?

Barry: ... and it has more than three sides.

Emma: A pentagon?

Barry: It's a quadrilateral and...

Emma: A square?

Barry: ... the sides might be different lengths, but everything is parallel.

Emma: A parallelogram.... Rectangle!

Notes

- Print on card or laminate.
- Guessers shouldn't be able to ask questions of the describer.
- It's best to play as teams. The person describing the word should have an incentive for others to guess correctly. Divide the shuffled cards equally between the teams. Players take it in turns to describe.
- Arguments will arise (and are part of the fun) so you need to be prepared to settle disputes. e.g. Is 'it has two plus two sides' an acceptable clue for 'rectangle'?
- The cards are marked with from one to three stars in approximate order of difficulty. You could use this as a basis for a scoring system or to filter out the harder words.
- To make the game easier you could allow students to use one of the forbidden words or have a scoring system based on the number of forbidden words used.
- A good revision activity is to supply a list of key words and ask students to make their own cards.
- Use mini whiteboards for a whole class activity.
- You might want to have a mathematics dictionary handy...

