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Detective briefcase, 50 question cards, 40 hint cards, 16 game pieces

Objectives

Answer context clue questions and be the first detective to solve the mystery on the hint cards

Setup

Take the briefcase and put it in the centre of the play area.

- Place the stack of shuffled question and direction cards next to the briefcase.
- Each player chooses a type of game piece (magnifying glass, flashlight, footprint, fingerprint) and places all four pieces in the centre
- Without looking, each player chooses a “Hidden hint” card from the stack.
- Still without looking at the cards place them in a compartment of the briefcase. Then, put one of your game pieces on the top of your hint cards

How to play the game

The youngest player goes first. Play in clockwise order.

- Take a question card and read it out loud. Say the answer and check it with the answer key. If the card doesn't contain a question, follow the direction on the card.
- If you answered correctly, take one of your game pieces and place it in front of you. Return the card to the bottom of the pile. It is now the next player's turn. You don't have an extra turn.
- If you answer incorrectly, your turn is over.
- Play continues until a player collects all three game pieces.
- When a player has collected three game pieces, he trades them in for a hint. (The three game pieces will be collected again to receive another hint.)
- Place the three game pieces in the centre.

- Ask the player to your right to read aloud the first hint from your card in the briefcase.
- Once a hint is given, a player can make one guess. If the guess is correct, the game is over and that detective wins. If the guess is incorrect, return the hint card to the briefcase, and play continues
- When a player collects three game pieces again, he trades these pieces in for a second hint on his card in the briefcase.
- Play continues like so until a detective solves the mystery on the hint card.

How to win

- The detective who solves the mystery first, wins.

Alternate play

- For a shorter game, skip the second hint and only read the first and third hint.

For the teacher

Use this game structure as inspiration for you or your students to make a similar game containing vocabulary from one or more of the themes that you have been working with.

NB

You might not want to use all the question cards. Use only words relevant for your students level of English.