

Methodology Of Teaching English Grammar To Primary School Students Through Games

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Received: 20 October 2025; **Accepted:** 11 November 2025; **Published:** 17 December 2025

Abstract: This article analyzes effective methodologies for teaching English grammar through games. It discusses the role and significance of games in the process of learning English, their integration with teaching methods, and how games contribute to increasing students' motivation, facilitating memorization, and enhancing interest in the language when learning grammar. The article also presents various types of games that have a positive impact on the grammar learning process, as well as their advantages for both students and teachers. The study incorporates modern approaches in pedagogy and language teaching methodology.

Keywords: English language, grammar, games, teaching methodology, motivation, learning process, interactive games, didactic methods, educational process, language teaching, benefits for learners.

Introduction: It is well known that becoming a successful individual with great prospects, achieving numerous accomplishments, and finding one's place in life are closely connected with the education and upbringing received during childhood. Therefore, the first four years of primary education at school are regarded as the foundation and initial stage of further education, including upper secondary school, lyceums, and universities.

Since our country gained independence, the demand for learning foreign languages has been steadily increasing. Today, the ability to learn and use foreign languages has become an integral part of our lives. Children have a natural inclination toward language learning; they possess strong imitation skills and a higher capacity for perception compared to adults. It should be taken into account that children aged 6–7 do not learn by understanding abstract meanings, but rather through games and physical activities. Therefore, teaching English grammar explicitly at this age is not essential. Up to the age of 9, English lessons should mainly be conducted through games.

For example, to engage and motivate learners, teachers can use word games based on previously learned vocabulary, various pictures for visual learning, and oral question-and-answer activities related to pupils' names, surnames, and ages. These methods help increase learners' interest in lessons. Although the

demand and opportunities for learning foreign languages have significantly increased today, some schools still lack qualified foreign language teachers. As a result, some members of the younger generation are becoming insufficiently educated.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has repeatedly emphasized the importance of foreign language learning for the younger generation. For this reason, schools have been equipped with modern technologies. A clear example of this is the introduction of foreign language instruction starting from the first grade.

In this context, English grammar in primary education is one of the most important components of language learning. However, the process of learning grammar is often perceived as boring and difficult. Therefore, modern teaching methodologies, including game-based teaching strategies, are widely applied in order to maintain learners' interest and increase motivation while teaching English grammar.

Before proceeding further, it is appropriate to briefly define grammar. According to dictionary definitions, grammar is a system of rules and principles used in constructing oral and written speech; it is a field of study that examines the structure of words and sentences. As stated in the guide Teaching English Grammar in Malaysian Primary Schools, grammar is the system of a language. Sometimes people describe

grammar as the “rules” of a language; however, in reality, no language has fixed rules. It is also noted that the idea of “no rules” does not imply that rules existed before language itself. In fact, language emerged when people first produced sounds, then words, phrases, and sentences.

Nevertheless, many sources define grammar as the set of rules that constitute the structure of a language. Children often struggle with learning rules, which leads to boredom. Interestingly, even adults sometimes perceive grammar as a difficult field to master. In our opinion, this is not entirely true. The key lies in simplifying and presenting grammar in an engaging way. Returning to the earlier point, when teaching foreign language grammar to young learners, teachers should simplify materials and increase learners’ interest, as children’s cognitive analysis skills are not yet fully developed. For learners of this age, especially in foreign language teaching, the principle of visual aids is highly effective.

Children do not need perfect grammatical knowledge in order to engage in basic communication in English. It is natural that grammatical rules seem boring to young learners. Psychology proves that young children are full of enthusiasm. Therefore, grammatical material presented to them should first and foremost be interesting, understandable, and enjoyable.

Grammar games serve as an effective tool not only for improving learners’ achievement levels but also for increasing their interest in language learning and helping them overcome difficulties. For this reason, modern pedagogy requires methods that enhance learners’ activity and actively involve them in the learning process. One such method is game-based teaching. Teaching grammar through game technologies helps not only to reinforce knowledge but also to develop learners’ speaking skills and overcome psychological barriers.

The role of grammar in language learning lies in its function as a system that studies language structure, word formation, and correct usage in sentences. In English, grammatical rules serve as the primary means of expressing ideas clearly and accurately. Grammar knowledge develops the following competencies: grammatical accuracy, logical thinking, written and oral communication skills, and communicative competence.

The advantages of teaching English grammar through games mainly include increased motivation. Games are interactive and encourage learners to participate actively. Such methods increase learners’ interest in learning, making grammar study more engaging and effective. In addition, games facilitate memorization:

grammatical rules are repeated in a playful form, making them easier to remember and more firmly reinforced.

Through group games, learners have opportunities to exchange ideas, help one another, and collaborate, which further enhances the language learning process. Difficulties that arise in learning grammar rules can be overcome through games, as they allow learners to experiment without fear of making mistakes and to correct them naturally. Games also foster creativity by encouraging learners to apply grammatical rules in new and varied situations.

The methodological foundations of teaching grammar through games include role-playing activities. Through role-playing, learners practice using English and applying grammatical rules in different situations, such as shopping at a café or traveling. These games ensure practical application of grammar. Flashcard games are also effective tools for learning grammatical rules, verb and noun forms, tenses, and other structures. Learners can quickly memorize rules using flashcards.

Quiz-based games allow learners to frequently test their knowledge of grammar rules and reinforce learning through question-and-answer activities. Grammar “Bingo” games help learners review grammatical structures and verbs. Creative games encourage learners to apply grammar rules in original contexts, such as creating stories or short scenes.

The methodological recommendations for game-based teaching include the following:

- Games should be selected according to learners’ age and proficiency level. More complex games are suitable for older learners, while simpler and more engaging games are recommended for younger learners.
- When integrating games into the teaching process, teachers should consider individual learners’ needs. Games should be short and effective, as lengthy games may distract learners.
- Although games are effective in increasing motivation and interest, they should not deviate from the main educational objectives.

The concept of games and their educational significance lies in their organization based on specific rules that enhance learners’ interest and activity. In the educational process, games activate cognitive processes, improve the emotional environment, and reinforce knowledge. Learning grammar should be systematic and gradual.

For example, when teaching verb tenses, games such as “Find Someone Who...” (to reinforce the Present Perfect), “Timeline Game” (to distinguish tenses), and

“Sentence Building” (to practice sentence construction) are effective. Role-playing games such as “At the Restaurant” and “At the Airport” help learners apply grammar in real-life situations. Flashcards and board games are useful for practicing word order, verb forms, and question formation.

In conclusion, teaching English grammar through games is an effective and innovative approach. Games provide learners with an engaging and productive experience in learning grammar while increasing their motivation to learn the language. Game-based teaching not only helps learners master grammar but also develops their communication, creativity, and critical thinking skills. This methodology enhances learning outcomes and makes the English learning process more effective, fully meeting modern educational requirements.

Based on personal teaching experience, working with primary school learners requires great care. In a class of 25 students, there may be 25 different learning styles and personalities. Paying more attention to disruptive or low-achieving students can help them reach the level of successful learners. Using games such as word-chain activities, picture descriptions, and interactive tasks increases students' interest in lessons. Conducting short games before introducing a topic helps focus learners' attention and enhances memory retention.

In primary classes, children are able to concentrate effectively for about 15 minutes; the remaining time should be spent using games and modern teaching methods. It is also essential for English teachers to be highly qualified educators and psychologists. Teachers must have deep grammatical knowledge and the ability to teach grammar effectively, which itself is a specialized skill. Overall, teaching English grammar to primary school learners should be enjoyable and engaging. Teachers should first explain grammatical material clearly and then use interactive activities to reinforce and consolidate learning.

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