

## Backs to the Board

**Name:** Backs to the Board

**Time:** 5+ minutes

### Procedure:

- Ask the class if they would like to play a game to review some recently taught vocabulary.
- Explain that a **volunteer** needs to come to the front and stand with his/her back to the board (i.e. he/she can't see the board). You will then write a secret word on the board and the volunteers classmates need to *spontaneously* give hints until the volunteer can guess the word. (Hints can be words, actions etc)
- Choose a volunteer and ask him/her to sit/stand with his/her back to the board.
- Model the activity by writing one word up as an example and asking the class to describe the word. **Note:** They are not allowed to say any part of the word on the board, for example, if the word is post office then they cannot say 'office' or 'post'. They need to say 'the place where you can send a letter ....etc'.
- Check that the students have understood the instructions and begin the game.
- Once the volunteer has guessed the word you should send him/her back to their seat and invite another student to the front.

**Adding competition:** The game can be played as a team game/competition. Divide the class into two teams and then get one volunteer from each team to come to the front at the same time. Play the game as usual but with both teams shouting out clues. The first volunteer to guess the word wins 1 point for his/her team. This version of the game is more difficult to manage, but it is more fun. Alternatively, having each team send a volunteer out in turn to guess multiple words on cards or revealed on a PPT with a time limit of 1 minute for each team can also work well.

### Further reading:

- Article on teaching vocabulary to kids:  
<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/kids-vocabulary>
- Alternative activity: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/slap-board-a-vocabulary-revision-activity>