Teaching ideas

Word and definition

- The ‘classic’ teaching version of the game, with a keyword on the right of one card and the definition on the left of another.

Question and answer

- Give each student a half of a domino card. Each half should have a question and an answer. Students have to match the question with the answer. This works well as a ‘follow me’ game around the room or as a straightforward game of dominoes.

- For an alternative, give students the answers on one half of the domino card. The teacher or another student has the question cards. When students hear a question to which they think they have the answer card, they should shout it out.

Making links

- This game helps students make connections of cause and effect between apparently isolated phenomena which are in fact connected, such as ‘buying a pair of cheap jeans’ and ‘a child in Bangladesh is taken out of school aged 10’.

Write the events involved in a particular process, such as producing a cheap pair of jeans, along with a range of causes and effects at local, national and international levels, one on each half of a domino card.

1. To start, players should turn one card from the pile face up, and place it on the table.

2. Players now take turns trying to match the events on their cards with the dominoes already on the table, placing their cards in a way so that at least one half of the domino is matched.

3. There has to be a genuine connection between the cards, so students have to identify a causal link or match similar factors, e.g. economic factors, local effects, etc.

4. As each player places their card, they should make a statement which demonstrates the connection between the cards, and this connection has to be agreed by all the players before the card can be successfully placed.

5. If a player is unable to make a match, they must pick up an additional card from the pile. The winner is the first person to play all their domino cards successfully.

You could collect the domino tiles in at the end of the lesson, and photocopy them onto sheets to give to students for revision. Alternatively, they could be used as topic sentences for paragraphs of an essay.