GAME 1 A1-A2 10 min · whole class or pairs

Opposites Match

Forty everyday adjectives in twenty pairs of opposites, each with a short phrase that shows the word in use.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Cut out the 40 cards. Pink cards are set A and green cards are set B.
2. **In class:** every student takes one card and walks around saying the word. Find the student with the opposite card.
3. **In pairs:** put all the cards face down and play Memory. Turn over two cards. If they are opposites, make one sentence with both words and keep them.
4. Your sentence must use both words: *My coffee is hot, but my soup is cold.*

cheap a cheap flight	**new** a new phone	**noisy** a noisy street	**empty** an empty fridge	**rough** a rough towel
weak weak tea	**hot** a hot cup of coffee	**light** a light jacket	**thick** a thick book	**dirty** dirty dishes
easy an easy test	**messy** a messy room	**big** a big city	**soft** a soft pillow	**wide** a wide road
slow a slow internet connection	**safe** a safe neighborhood	**tight** tight shoes	**old** an old house	**short** a short break
full a full bus	**dry** dry weather	**strong** strong coffee	**expensive** an expensive watch	**heavy** a heavy suitcase
quiet a quiet library	**clean** a clean kitchen	**smooth** a smooth stone	**tidy** a tidy desk	**cold** a cold drink
hard a hard chair	**thin** a thin slice of bread	**fast** a fast car	**difficult** a difficult question	**loose** loose jeans
small a small apartment	**long** a long line	**narrow** a narrow bridge	**wet** wet hair	**dangerous** a dangerous sport

Free for classroom use. Share the link, not the file: **esllaboratory.com**

GAME 2 · A1-A2 · 10 min · whole class or pairs

Mystery Bag

Describe a thing only by how it feels. Touch words like rough, smooth and sticky are useful, and textbooks rarely teach them.

HOW TO PLAY

1. **With a real bag:** put five things from home in a bag. A student puts a hand in, without looking, and describes what they feel. The class guesses.
2. **With the cards:** cut out the twelve cards and put them face down. Take a card. Describe the thing with words from the box, and only those words. Your partner guesses.
3. Your partner can ask three yes or no questions: *Is it heavy? Is it round?*

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

soft · hard · rough · smooth · sticky · fluffy · furry · bumpy

WHAT SHAPE IS IT?

round · square · long · flat · thin · pointed · curved

HOW BIG OR HEAVY?

tiny · small · big · heavy · light

ANYTHING ELSE?

cold · warm · sharp · wet · dry · empty · full

SAY IT LIKE THIS

It's _____ and _____. It feels _____. It's a little _____, but it isn't _____.

? a lemon	? a key	? a wool scarf	? a tennis ball
? a coin	? a toothbrush	? a kitchen sponge	? a pine cone
? a candle	? a metal spoon	? a sock	? an egg

+ Write one more thing you can describe by touch. Then try it on your partner.

GAME 3 · A2 · 15 min · pairs

Apartment Hunt

Two apartments, two students and one decision. You can only find out about your partner's apartment with comparative questions.

1 Work in pairs. Cut out the two apartment cards along the dashed line. Student A takes Apartment A, and Student B takes Apartment B. Don't show your card. Put the rest of the page between you.

STUDENT A

Apartment A · Green Street

Rent	$950 a month
Size	48 m²
To the center	10 minutes by bus
Floor	5th floor, no elevator
Built in	1985
The street	busy, with two bars
Windows	four big windows

STUDENT B

Apartment B · Lake Road

Rent	$780 a month
Size	62 m²
To the center	35 minutes by bus
Floor	1st floor
Built in	2019
The street	quiet, near a park
Windows	two small windows

2 Find out which apartment is better in each way. Ask only yes or no questions with a comparative. Circle A or B.

WHICH ONE IS ...	ASK YOUR PARTNER	A	B
cheaper	Is yours cheaper than mine?	A	B
bigger	Is yours bigger?	A	B
closer to the center	Is yours closer to the center?	A	B
easier with shopping bags	Is yours easier to get to with shopping bags?	A	B
newer	Is yours newer?	A	B
quieter	Is yours quieter?	A	B
brighter	Is yours brighter?	A	B

3 You are moving in together. Choose one apartment and write two reasons.

We choose Apartment _____ because it's _____ than _____ and _____

4 Now show each other your cards. Did you circle the right letters?

GAME 4 · A2-B1 · 15 min · groups of three or four

Ranking Debate

Five things, one order, and the group has to agree. Every reason needs a comparative or a superlative.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Work in groups of three or four. Choose one list.
2. Agree on the order as a group. Every argument must use a comparative or a superlative.
3. One student is the checker and makes a tick in the table for every correct comparative or superlative. Change the checker for the next list.
4. Compare with another group. Where is your biggest difference?

Jobs

Rank from the most stressful to the least stressful

a nurse · a teacher · a pilot · a chef · a taxi driver

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

Inventions

Rank from the most useful to the least useful

the washing machine · the smartphone · the car · the fridge · the dishwasher

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

A weekend trip

Rank from the best way to travel to the worst

by train · by plane · by car · by bus · by bike

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

COMPARE TWO

A pilot is more stressful than a chef.

A bike is cheaper than a train.

THE TOP OR THE BOTTOM

The fridge is the most useful.

The bus is the slowest.

NOT SO DIFFERENT

A chef isn't as stressful as a nurse.

The car is as fast as the train.

DISAGREE

I'm not sure. I think a teacher is more tired at the end of the day.

NAME	CORRECT COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

GAME 5 · B1 · 15 min · pairs

Sentence Builder

Native speakers rarely use more than three adjectives before a noun, but when they do, the order is fixed.

1 opinion · 2 size · 3 age · 4 shape · 5 color · 6 origin · 7 material · 8 purpose · noun

1 Cut out the tiles. The small number on each tile shows its place in the order.

lovely 1	ugly 1	comfortable 1	big 2	tiny 2	long 2
old 3	new 3	antique 3	round 4	square 4	black 5
red 5	gray 5	Italian 6	Japanese 6	Mexican 6	wooden 7
leather 7	cotton 7	running 8	dining 8	sleeping 8	silk 7

2 Choose a noun. In two minutes, build the longest correct phrase you can. Then cut it to the three most useful words.

NOUNS

table · bag · shoes · jacket · chair · scarf

My longest phrase: a _____

The best three words: a _____

3 Race your partner. Fix the order of these phrases.

1 a leather old brown bag

2 a red big car

3 Italian lovely shoes

4 a wooden round small table

5 a cotton white new shirt

6 running expensive shoes

Answers 1 an old brown leather bag · 2 a big red car · 3 lovely Italian shoes · 4 a small round wooden table · 5 a new white cotton shirt · 6 expensive running shoes

GAME 6 · B1 · 15 min · pairs

Bored or Boring?

Twelve everyday moments. For each one, say how it was and how you felt.

-ing
describes the thing that causes the feeling.
The meeting was boring.

-ed
describes how you feel.
I was bored.

Careful!
"I am boring" means other people find you boring.

1 Read a card to your partner. Your partner says two sentences: one with -ing and one with -ed. Then swap.

START FROM THESE WORDS

bored · frustrated · excited · embarrassed · exhausted · frightened · surprised · confused · disappointed · relaxed · interested · amazed

1 A three-hour meeting with no coffee It was _____ I was _____	**2** Your flight is canceled for the second time It was _____ I was _____	**3** Your team scores in the last minute of the final It was _____ I was _____
4 You call your boss "Mom" in a meeting It was _____ I was _____	**5** A twelve-hour shift at work It was _____ I was _____	**6** A strange noise downstairs at 3 a.m. It was _____ I was _____
7 A movie with an ending you didn't expect It was _____ I was _____	**8** A form in a language you don't speak It was _____ I was _____	**9** Your friend cancels plans for the third time It was _____ I was _____
10 Two weeks on a quiet beach It was _____ I was _____	**11** A documentary about life on Mars It was _____ I was _____	**12** Your test result is much better than you hoped It was _____ I was _____

2 Tell your partner about a real moment when you felt one of these. Don't say the word. Can your partner guess it?

Answers 1 boring / bored · 2 frustrating / frustrated · 3 exciting / excited · 4 embarrassing / embarrassed · 5 exhausting / exhausted · 6 frightening / frightened · 7 surprising / surprised · 8 confusing / confused · 9 disappointing / disappointed · 10 relaxing / relaxed · 11 interesting / interested · 12 amazing / amazed

GAME 7 B1-B2 20 min · pairs or the whole class

Dating Profile

Personality adjectives with a funny goal: find a date for a fairy-tale villain or a person from history.

1 **Choose a character from the list, or a famous person from history. Don't tell anybody who it is.**

CHARACTERS

the Big Bad Wolf | Cinderella's stepmother | Count Dracula | Sherlock Holmes | Robin Hood | Cleopatra | Napoleon | the Snow Queen | Captain Hook | Frankenstein's monster

2 **Write a dating profile for your character with at least eight adjectives. Cross out each adjective in the box when you use it. Nobody in the class can use it again!**

ADJECTIVES

ambitious | adventurous | arrogant | bossy | brave | calm | charming | clever | creative | curious | dramatic | easygoing | generous | honest | impatient | jealous | lazy | loyal | mysterious | patient | polite | reliable | romantic | rude | selfish | sensitive | shy | stubborn | talkative | well-dressed

A MODEL PROFILE

Brilliant, observant and a little arrogant. I play the violin at three in the morning. I'm looking for a partner who is patient, brave and never bored. Please don't write to me if you are lazy or talkative.

Who is it? Sherlock Holmes

PROFILE

Name: a secret!

About me (three adjectives):

_____

On a perfect evening, I

_____

I'm looking for a partner who is

_____

Please don't write to me if you are

_____

PROFILE 2

Name: a secret!

About me (three adjectives):

_____

On a perfect evening, I

_____

I'm looking for a partner who is

_____

Please don't write to me if you are

_____

3 **Read the profiles aloud. The class guesses who wrote each one.**

GAME 8 · B1-B2 · 20 min · pairs

Product Review

Real shoppers don't say nice and good. They say durable, flimsy and overpriced.

1 Look at three pairs of headphones. Which would you buy? Tell your partner.

Headphones A

$19

plastic
95 g
4 hours of battery

"It broke after a month."

Headphones B

$89

metal and leather
250 g
30 hours of battery

"Great sound, but my head hurts after an hour."

Headphones C

$249

soft plastic
180 g
40 hours of battery

"Perfect, but I'm scared to take them outside."

GOOD

durable · lightweight · comfortable · solid · sleek · reliable · good value

BAD

flimsy · bulky · uncomfortable · overpriced · cheap-looking · fragile · heavy

SOFTENERS

a little · a bit · not very · slightly · rather

2 Write a two-line review of each pair and give it stars. Don't use the same adjective twice.

Headphones A ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Headphones B ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Headphones C ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

3 Make one review polite but negative. Use a softener: *The sound is a little thin, and they're not very comfortable.*

4 Swap reviews with your partner. Underline every adjective. Who used more words from the box?

Free for classroom use. Share the link, not the file: **esllaboratory.com**

GAME 9 B2-C1 15 min · teams of two or three

Upgrade the Adjective

Advanced students know very. What they need is enormous, exhausted and superb, and the words that go with them.

Normal adjectives
take very.
very big, very tired

Extreme adjectives
take absolutely, totally or really.
absolutely enormous

Never
very + an extreme adjective.
very enormous ✕

EXTREME ADJECTIVES: WHICH NORMAL ADJECTIVE DOES EACH ONE UPGRADE?

awful · boiling · enormous · exhausted · fascinating · filthy · freezing · furious · hilarious · starving · stunning · superb · terrified · tiny

1 **In teams, rewrite the paragraph. Change every *very + adjective* to an intensifier and an extreme adjective. One point for each correct change.**

Our weekend in the mountains was a very big adventure. After the long drive, we were very tired and very hungry. The hotel was very small, and our room was very cold, so we slept in our jackets. The bathroom was very dirty. But the next morning, the view from the window was very pretty, and the breakfast was very good. The owner told us very funny stories about the town.

2 **Right or wrong? Correct the wrong ones.**

1 **It was a very enormous house.**
Right or wrong?

2 **I'm absolutely tired.**
Right or wrong?

3 **The soup was really boiling.**
Right or wrong?

4 **The movie was very fascinating.**
Right or wrong?

Answers **1** enormous · exhausted · starving · tiny · freezing · filthy · stunning · superb · hilarious (each with absolutely, totally or really) **2** I an absolutely enormous house / a very big house · 2 I'm very tired / absolutely exhausted · 3 correct · 4 absolutely fascinating / very interesting

GAME 10 C1 20 min · pairs

Style Swap

One hotel room, two writers. Adjectives carry the writer's attitude.

1 **Read the plain description of a hotel room.**

> Room 412 is on the fourth floor. It has a double bed, a desk and a small balcony over a side street. The furniture is from the 1990s. The bathroom has a shower but no bath. At night, you can't hear anything from the street. Breakfast is from 7 to 10. The room costs $95 a night.

2 **Student A writes a travel ad that makes the room sound wonderful. Student B writes an angry online review. Use the same facts.**

THE SAME FACT, TWO ATTITUDES: POSITIVE / NEGATIVE

spacious / cramped · **charming** / old-fashioned · **peaceful** / dull · **cozy** / poky · **classic** / dated · **practical** / basic · **simple** / bare · **affordable** / cheap

Student A: the travel ad

Student B: the angry review

3 **Read both texts aloud. Underline the adjectives that describe the same fact, like spacious and cramped.**

4 **Which text would the hotel owner rather see? Which one would you believe?**