

Ordinal numbers flashcard memory games

Instructions for teachers

This game can be played with any set of 8 to 12 flashcards, but the flashcards below are designed to go with (fairly) realistic questions like “What do you do first/ second/ third/ ...th at work?”, “When do you... (in the morning)?”, “Is... the first/ second/ third/ ...th (thing)...?” and “Do you ... first/ second/ third/ ...th (at school)?” It is also possible with past and future questions like “When did...?” and “Are you going to... on...?”

Choose one set of cards below or make or find cards with the vocabulary that you want to revise or introduce. If students might have problems reading the words or knowing what the words on the cards mean, add pictures or replace the word cards with picture cards. When you photocopy, make sure that the words/ pictures can't be seen through the back of the cards by using thick paper, making pale photocopies and/ or playing the game on a dark surface such as a dark brown table. Cut up one set of flashcards per class (or one set per group of two to four students if you want students to play the game in groups).

The first time that you play, play with just the vocabulary cards (so without the ordinal number cards). Drill the vocabulary on the cards as you lay them on the table one by one face up. Drill the ordinal numbers as you point at the cards in the same order. Then drill the vocabulary and ordinal numbers as you turn the cards face down one by one, perhaps with a whole sentence such as “First, I get up”, “Second, I brush my teeth”, etc. The teacher or students then test each other with questions like “What do you do third?”, “When did the monkeys enter the ark?” and “Were the elephants fourth?” Turn the card over to check and leave it face up if the answer was correct. Continue until all the cards are face up (because they have been guessed correctly).

When students have got the hang of the basic ordinal numbers, you can play the same game with higher numbers by putting one of the ordinal numbers cards below before the first flashcard and starting from the following number, e.g. putting the “ninth” card on the table and then saying that the cards on the table are “tenth”, “eleventh”, etc. This makes the questions and answers less realistic, but can be amusing if you talk about the “The million and first” thing you do in the morning. Alternatively, you can switch to just pairing them up with simple exchanges like “Apple?” “Thirteenth!”, “Nineteenth?” “Banana” and “Is fifteenth pineapple?” “No, it isn't”.

Before or after the games above, a more quickfire possibility is to quickly drill students on a pack of cards as you flash them up one by one (putting them back in the pack in order this time) and then testing students with just one questions about what they say such as “What was the seventh card?”, “What cards was aubergine?” and “Was cucumber second?”

Vocabulary cards**Morning action vocabulary cards****Suggested questions**

- “What do you do first/ second/ third/ ...th (in the morning)?”
- “When do you... (in the morning)?”
- “Is... the first/ second/ third/ ...th thing that you do (in the morning)?”/ “Do you ... first/ second/ third/ ...th (in the morning)?”

get dressed

make my bed

eat breakfast

brush my hair

brush my teeth

pack my bag

wash my face

do some exercise

put on my hat and coat

pick up my bag

say goodbye

feed my dog

water the plants



Evening actions vocabulary cards

Suggested questions

- “What do you do first/ second/ third/ ...th (in the evening)?”
- “When do you... (in the evening)?”
- “Is... the first/ second/ third/ ...th thing that you do (in the evening)?”/ “Do you ... first/ second/ third/ ...th (in the evening)?”

get into bed
read a book
do my homework
brush my teeth
have a bath
put my pyjamas on
watch television
say goodnight
eat dinner
do housework
get home
take off my shoes
put on my dressing gown

School subject vocabulary cards

Suggested questions

- “What do you study first/ second/ third/ ...th?”
- “When do you study ...?”
- “Is... first/ second/ third/ ...th?”/ “Is... the first/ second/ third/ ...th thing that you study?”/ “Do you study ... first/ second/ third/ ...th?”

maths
English
science
French
art
music
PE
ethics
history
social studies
calligraphy
flower arranging

Morning work routine vocabulary cards**Suggested questions**

- “What do you do first/ second/ third/ ...th (in the morning)?”
- “When do you... (in the morning)?”
- “Is...ing... your first/ second/ third/...th action (in the morning)?”/ “Do you ... first/ second/ third/ ...th (in the morning)?”

check my email

check my answerphone

meet my boss

make coffee

eat something

go to my locker

go to the toilet

chat

smoke

write emails

phone people

have a teleconference

take a break



Animal vocabulary cards

Suggested questions

- “When did the monkeys enter the Ark?”
- “Which animals entered the Ark second?”
“Were the giraffes seventh?” / “Were the giraffes the seventh animals?”

lions
giraffes
squirrels
rhinos
hippos
cheetahs
alligators
rabbits
pigs
cows
sheep
snakes
eagles



Technology vocabulary cards

Suggested questions

- “Which was invented first?”
- “When were computers invented?”
- “Were smartphone the twelfth invention?”

computers

televisions

telephones

mobile phones

smartphones

trains

aeroplanes

cars

bicycles

street lamps

steam engines

cans

glass windows

Food vocabulary cards (with countable and uncountable nouns)**Suggested questions**

- “What was the first/ second/ third/ ...th ingredient?”
- “When did you add...?”
- “Was... the first/ second/ third/ ...th ingredient?”

Sweet food version

flour
sugar
salt
butter
milk
raisins
nuts
chocolate
chocolate chips
blueberries
orange peel
peanut butter
margarine

Savoury food version

green peas

pasta

cheese

salt

black pepper

green beans

French fries

mashed potato

flour

chilli powder

soy sauce

ketchup

cloves of garlic

corn



Toys cards

Suggested questions

- “What was your... present?”
- “Was... your... present?”
- “When did you open...?”

radio controlled car

toy train

doll

beach ball

marbles

kite

teddy bear

computer game

whistle

bouncy ball

baseball bat

bicycle

unicycle

Country cards

Suggested questions

- “What was the... country that you went to?”/ “Where are you going...?”
- “Was... the... country that you went to?”/ “Are you going to... ..?”
- “When did you go to...?”/ “When are you going to...?”

Germany
Belgium
France
the UK
China
South Korea
Mongolia
Vietnam
India
The Czech Republic
Thailand
Kazakhstan
Ukraine



Sightseeing spots cards

Suggested questions

- “What was the... thing that you saw?”
- “Was... the... thing that you saw?”
- “When did you see...?”

the skyscraper district

the castle

a stately home

the sunset

the palace

the city hall

changing of the guard

parliament

the prime minister's house

the traditional guards

the main shopping street

the city walls

the city gate



Ordinal numbers cards

fifth

sixth

seventh

eighth

nineteenth

twenty fifth

thirty eighth

forty ninth

ninety eighth

hundredth

thousandth

millionth

billionth