

2

“Anna says...”

Goal

With this exercise, the students practice conscientious listening and listening-comprehension in that they have to quickly process and apply what they have heard. At the same time, they learn in a playful way to follow the prompts of the instructor and to solidify their receptive vocabulary.

1st–6th grade

5–10 minutes



Hints:

This exercise is based on the children’s play “Simon says”, which is known and applied world-wide under various names.

The name “Anna” may of course be replaced with a typical name from the language and culture of the students.

Procedure:

- The instructor gives the students a simple command that begins with “Anna says”. Example: “Anna says: go silently around the room.”, “Anna says: clap your hands.”.
- The students may only follow the commands if these begin with “Anna says”. If the instructor issues a prompt without uttering “Anna says” (e.g. “come forward!”), the students have to ignore the command.
- If students violate this rule (i. e. react to a prompt that does not begin with “Anna says”), they must sit out for a while or a certain number of rounds.

Suggestions, what Anna could say:

- ▶ “Anna says: touch your right knee.”
- ▶ “Anna says: stand on your chair.”
- ▶ “Anna says: walk like an old man / like an old woman / like a king / like a tiger, stalking a prey / like an ape.”



Variants:

- A student gives the instructions instead of the instructor.
- The students have to do the opposite of what Anna demands. If “Anna says: sit down”, they have to stand up.