

Review: Mastertalker

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Mastertalker is both a board game and an effective language-teaching aid to encourage participation and classroom interaction. The game is aimed at learners aged 14+, although the elementary and lower-intermediate level questions would also be suitable for upper primary learners, and includes a game board, counters, sets of questions (3 sets at each level, covering 900 questions) and a stopwatch. Players move around the board and are asked a range of questions depending on which colour they land on. Tokens are collected for correct answers. Each coloured question focuses on a different aspect of language: grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and reading. Many of these questions are open-ended and allow students to draw on their own experiences and backgrounds as well as helping teachers to assess their students' progress. Questions are aimed at elementary, lower intermediate, or upper intermediate skill levels.

However, while aimed at ESL learners, Mastertalker does require some English-language skills in order to read and understand questions and some students, especially those with low literacy levels, may require teacher assistance while playing. The instructions are simple and clear, and the game is quick to set up and flexible. This game would be a valuable addition to the English language classroom.

Highly recommended, and good value for money as well.