



## **THE USE OF ACTION BINGO GAME IN TEACHING VOCABULARY TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

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### **Abstract**

This paper talks about the use of Action Bingo game in helping the students of Elementary School Grade 6 in mastering vocabularies related to verbs in English. The writer will explain about the procedures and the advantages of Action Bingo Game. This game could be played individually or in pair. In this game, the teacher distributes one board that has 16 columns in each board, there will be one verb in one column. The teacher mimes every single verb in the board randomly. The students give a mark in the column that consists of verb that has been mimed by the teacher. If a student has marked four squares in a row :horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, they should call out “BINGO!” The game is over when every column has been marked. This game could make English learning process become more interesting. Furthermore, this game could increase the students’ motivation and ease them in mastering the meanings of vocabularies related to verbs in English.

**Key words:** Verbs, Action Bingo Game, Elementary School students grade 6

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

As an important subject in school, English has been taught by some strategies, methods, and approaches to make it easy and understandable. Some methods are taught to be done in each level of education, and so do in Elementary School. In Elementary School, students are taught the core of English. They are taught how to pronounce, spell, or to memorize some vocabularies related to their daily lives. As the beginner level, English for Elementary School’s students must be taught as interesting as possible. Teachers have to master the strategies to create a fun atmosphere in learning and teaching process. Teachers have to find the way not to make students bored in learning English. It is because students in this level really need an external motivation and a supporting environment to learn. That is why the teachers have an important role to make students interested

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in learning English. Hariadi and Amir (2014: 112) vocabulary has function to make students structure the ideas and argument, both orally and in writing.

Vocabulary, as the core of learning English at the Elementary School, must be taught clearly and interestingly. Teachers have a really important role in creating an effective strategy in helping students to master the vocabulary. The vocabulary which will be taught must be related to daily lives, including school stuff, part of the body, vehicle, and also some verbs which will be used often. However, some students in Elementary school find that learning English is difficult and boring. Teachers only ask the students to memorize some vocabularies and repeat it again and again until they memorize them. Unfortunately, this way will not make the memorization lasts longer. The students only memorize the vocabulary for the test given by the teacher, after memorizing some vocabularies this day, students will forget them a day later.

Another problem is that not all of the students are good in memorization. Students are different, some of them are good in audio, visual, and also audio-visual. The consideration in scoring will be unfair if students who can memorize more vocabularies get higher score than the others who cannot learn through memorization only. For this case, the teacher really need to guide the students by finding and using a fun strategy in learning vocabulary in order to make the students more capable in English from the beginner level.

In addition, the writer assumes that to be good in learning English, the students need to have an internal willingness to learn a language since they are in the Elementary School, because the way students learn English at Elementary School will affect their ability and their view about English when they are in Junior High School. If the strategy used by the teacher at Elementary School is boring and not interesting, the students will keep thinking that English is hard and difficult to learn, even when they are in Junior High School. In order to increase the students' internal willingness in learning English since Elementary School, the teacher must be able to create the class activity that could change the students thought, the teacher must be able to change the students' mind and emphasize that learning English is not as difficult as they think.

## **B. DISCUSSION**

Vocabulary is the total number of the words (with their meaning and with rules for combining them) making up the language Hornby (1995: 985). Each vocabulary has its own meaning, and the more vocabulary students have mastered, the more easily they learn a language and use it in everyday life. Building up some useful vocabularies in the beginning level of students is a good start in order to make the students are capable in English. Young learners need to learn some vocabulary that they can use often in their daily life. Furthermore, in the learning process, the teacher needs to use an interesting activity to motivate children and make them interested in learning. Phillips (1995:98) states that in learning a language, young learners respond to the language, depending on what it does or what they can do with it rather than treating it as an intellectual game or abstract system. So that the teacher can use game as an activity for children in learning a

language, especially for learning vocabulary. One of the activity that can be used by the teacher in teaching vocabulary is Action Bingo Game.

### 1. Teacher's Preparation for Action Bingo Game

The first preparation is preparing the material that will be given to the students. The material consists of some vocabularies related to children's daily life, such as; swimming, walking, reading and sleeping. There will be twenty two of action verbs which will be written on the twenty two cards. These are the examples of the cards:

swimming	walking	reading	sleeping	dancing
	talking	drinking	crying	

The next preparation is the media will be used along the game. The teacher needs to provide the boards as the number of the students. There will be eight kinds of boards are provided, each board has sixteen of twenty two action verbs that will be written on the sixteen squares. There will be some differences of action verbs from one board to another. The differences of the board are used to avoid cheating among the students. This is the example of the board:

Board One

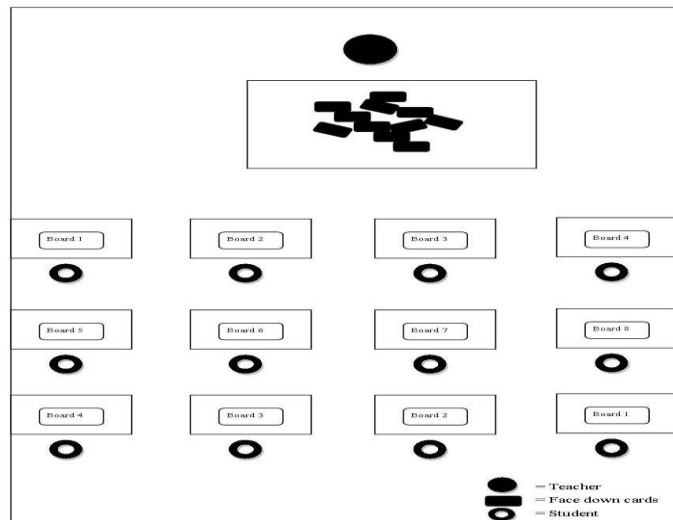
sleeping	swimming	reading	running
sitting	falling	sewing	watching TV
brushing your teeth	crying	talking	driving
sweeping	laughing	writing	jumping

Board Two

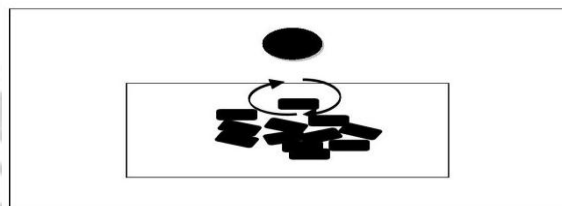
swimming	talking	sleeping	crying
eating	walking	dancing	smiling
watching TV	drinking	taking a shower	laughing
running	sewing	falling	sitting

### 2. The Procedures of Action Bingo Game

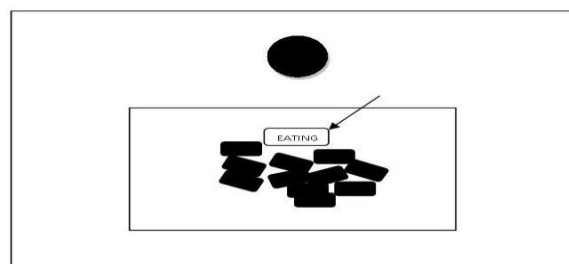
Firstly, the teacher must distribute the board for each student. Make sure that the students who sit close to each other get different kind of boards. After distributing the board to all of the students and checking that all students have got the boards, the teacher place all the twenty two cards faced down on the teacher's table. Make sure that all the cards are faced down, so that the students cannot know what action verb which will be chosen to be mimed by the teacher.



After placing the cards in the table, the teacher mixes them up. This process is aimed to let the students know that the teacher also does not know what action verb will be chosen.



Next, the teacher chooses one of the cards and mimes the chosen one. For example if the chosen card is 'EATING', the teacher acts like a person who is already eating. The teacher stands in front of the students and start to mime the action verb chosen. These twenty cards will be used by the teacher to determine what action verbs that will be mimed.

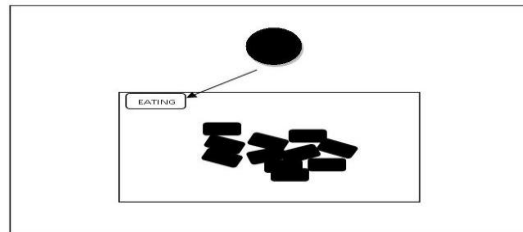


While the teacher is miming the action verb, the students give a mark of the action verb on the appropriate square. The students will be given around 15 seconds to figure out and mark on the square what action verb that the teacher mimes in front of the class.

swimming	Talking	sleeping	crying
eating ✓	Walking	Dancing	Smiling
watching TV	Drinking	taking a shower	laughing

running	sewing	Falling	Sitting
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The teacher puts the chosen card into the corner of the table, to separate it with the other cards. Then the teacher chooses another card to be mimed.



The last step is, when a student has marked four squares in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) they should call out “BINGO!” To confirm the win, the student tells the class which four action verbs that she has in a row while the teacher verifies that these are correct. To verify whether the action verbs that have been marked by the students are correct or not, the teacher could look at the cards that have been put in the corner of the table, then show to the other students so that they can determine whether their friend are correct or not.

swimming ✓	Talking	sleeping	crying
eating ✓	Walking	Dancing	Smiling
watching TV ✓	Drinking	taking a shower	laughing
running ✓	sewing	Falling	Sitting

More than one student can possibly win the game at the same time. In this case the teacher can consider one or more students who win at the same time as the winner. Students who have been the winner or have shouted BINGO for the first time can still follow the game, but they cannot be the winner for the second time. The teacher can continue the game until all of the twenty cards has been mimed. After the game is played, the teacher could give reward to the winner, it could be pens, pencil, other school stuff. The teacher needs also to give compliment to keep motivating the students who cannot win the game yet.

### C. Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that vocabulary must be taught since the students are young. In order to keep motivating the students in learning process, the teacher needs to use an interesting activity. One of the activities can be used by the teacher in teaching vocabulary is Action Bingo

Game. This game is fun and interesting, besides this game also makes the vocabularies last longer in the students' mind. It is because in teaching vocabulary related to action verbs, the teacher mimes the action verbs in front of the class.

In playing this game, the writer suggests the teacher to pay attention to the preparation for the game runs well. The teacher also needs to control the students when the game is played. It can avoid the students from cheating. It will also important for the teacher not to make a scary atmosphere for the students to learn vocabulary. An interesting and fun atmosphere will make the game becoming more fun and full of joy.

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