

Instructions for using loop and domino cards

Loop cards

Loop games involve pupils being dealt a set of cards, each with a question and an answer to a different question. Beginning with any pupil reading out their question, the pupil with the corresponding correct answer is required to read it out. That pupil then reads their question for another pupil to answer. A loop game is constructed so that the sequence ensures that all questions and answers must be used. In a loop game the sequence always arrives back at the first question.

Short loops can be used as competitive team activities (which team can complete the loop first?) or small group activities. This helps to ensure that every pupil is fully involved in the whole activity.

For team activities, divide a class of 28–30 into three teams for a 10-unit loop, four teams for an 8-unit loop or five teams for a 6-unit loop. Each member of the team is given one section of the loop, then the team has to stand up and physically rearrange themselves (holding their section facing outwards) into a circle so that the sections match to form the loop. (You may have to give one pupil two consecutive units of the loop if your numbers do not divide evenly.)

Domino cards

The domino cards can be used in a variety of ways:

- Prepare the cards as a set of dominoes. Cut out each card so its question and an answer form one 'domino'. Shuffle the cards. Pupils play by finding the answer to a question on a different card. Match all the questions with their correct answers and you will be able to form a complete loop.
- Cut out each question and answer separately. Shuffle the cards. Then match the question to the answer to form a pair of columns on a bench or table.
- Prepare the cards for a loop game. Shuffle the cards, distribute and play as a loop game. Check that the sequence will always allow the loop to be completed.
- In large groups of say 30 pupils, five groups of six could each have their own set of the same cards. The cards can also be used as loop games. Pupils can compete to find out which group can complete the loop in the shortest time. Alternatively all five sets can be used and when a group completes one set they can then try a different set. Finally, after all sets have been used, the amalgamated set of 30 can be used to form one large loop. This is best done with cards that have the question on one side and the answer on the other side.

Homework

Pupils can form the loop as homework and write the sequence of letters in their books, or simply cut and paste the cards in order. Alternatively they can write sentences comprising a question with its correct answer so that they have a complete record which can be marked with comments as appropriate.