

## Tank Battle!

**Level:** Elementary & Up

**Objective:** Build up trust in the class  
Imperatives  
Direction vocabulary  
Prepositions of place & movement

**Plan:** Walk into the class and draw a big bull's-eye up on the board (I like to tape a picture of a tank in the center). Draw a line on the floor where people have to throw from. Then throw a crumpled up paper ball on the floor. Point to the ball to indicate that you want it. You also might want to tell students not to touch it.

Leave the classroom and put on a blindfold. Enter the classroom and start stumbling around as if you're searching for something. The students should catch on immediately that you want the ball. If not, ask where the ball is.

The students should guide you to the ball using whatever language they have. Then indicate that you want to hit the target. Again, students will guide you to throw it using whatever language they know. You can scaffold by asking. For example, "should I throw it (mime throwing)?"

After you have successfully thrown the ball at the target, ask the students how close you were to the bull's-eye. Then put up on the board any language they used and try to elicit some more and add your own. Students will need language like, go forward, move your hand to the right, bend down, , turn to the left, throw it hard, etc.

Depending on the level of the class you might want to do some TPR with this. Play a quick game of Simon Says to familiarize them with the necessary vocabulary. Or you could set up 3 chairs at the front of the class and have students come up in groups. The person in the middle gives commands while the other two follow. Work through a couple groups this way.

Once you are sure people are fairly familiar with the necessary language, point to the tank and ask them what it is. Ask them when tanks are used. Tell them that they are going to learn to fight a war in English!

The Rules of War are: 1) No touching , 2) Stay behind your tank at all times, 3) Commanders cannot touch the balls, and 4) if you get hit with a ball, you are out.

Split the class off into pairs. One person in each group is the tank. They will be blindfolded. The other person is the commander. They will give the directions.

Scatter a bunch of tank balls on the floor (crumpled pieces of paper). Explain to the students, by way of demonstration, that the tanks must pick up a ball and try to hit another tank with it. Once a tank is hit, they are out until the next round.

Blindfold the tanks and spin them around. Keep track of who hits who. The first round the teacher should monitor the game, but the 2nd round should have the teacher participating with someone else monitoring. If a group uses L1, they are automatically out.

Probably after round 1 you will need to revise some of the necessary commands and directions. Play the game for as many rounds as the students are interested in.

Get feedback on the lesson and tell students they are now ready to fight a war in English :)