Teachers' Notes: CH pronunciation (snap!)

Procedure

Elicit some vocabulary from previous lessons with 'ch' words (I like to combine this with lessons on the body or health as there are lots of related words – chin, ache, itch, chemist ...). Elicit that the most common way to say it is /ʧ/ (e.g. chin), but that /k/(ache) and /ʃ/ (moustache) are also possible.

If your students are interested, they might find it helpful to know that words with Greek origin usually have 'ch' pronounced /k/, while words with French origin are usually /ʃ/ .

Cut up the cards – one set for each group of 2-3 students. If you use groups of 3, one student should be referee with the answers (a copy of the words with the same pronunciation).

The students deal out the cards into two piles. Each student places their pile, face down in front of them. Then they count down 3 – 2 – 1 and turn over a card at the same time. If both the cards have the same pronunciation of ch, they should shout "snap!" The first student to say "snap" wins the cards and puts them at the bottom of their pile.

The game is over when one student has run out of cards.

Note: the first page has easier words on it, and the second page has harder words – you could just use the first page for a low level class.

Answers (for the referee)

/ʧ/

catch challenge change chat cheek chest chew chicken children chin choose church itch kitchen rich scratch watch which witch

/k/

archaeologist ache architect chaos character chemical chemist chemistry chlorine choir Christmas echo mechanic orchestra orchid psychiatrist psychology school stomach technology scheme

/ʃ/

champagne chauffeur chef chic machine moustache parachute

Exception: yacht

chef	moustache	machine
chicken	kitchen	chemist
chemistry	character	champagne
mechanic	Christmas	ache
stomach	school	church
children	choose	change
catch	watch	witch
chest	rich	which

chic	chauffeur	choir
chaos	chlorine	archaeologist
psychiatrist	scheme	orchid
echo	itch	scratch
parachute	yacht	challenge
chew	chin	spinach
cheek	technology	orchestra
psychology	architect	chemical