

ESL Animals Picture Bingo

15-minute suggested lesson | ESL beginners | 1-4 players

Listen for eight animal names and use them in short spoken phrases.

Learning goals

- Match an animal name to its picture.
- Name an animal or use a short phrase such as 'It is a cat'.

Prepare

- Print the card pack on A4 landscape, cut out the four cards and prepare counters.
 - Use the second page as a caller sheet. Rehearse the eight names and agree the picture labels before playing.
- Card pack: A4 landscape, 100% scale. This teacher guide: A4 portrait. Use age-appropriate counters.

Teach and play

0-4 min / Introduce the animals

Show each caller tile. Say its name and invite learners to repeat or point. Check the distinction between a general bird and the specific animal pictures.

4-6 min / Show how to win

Hand out cards, mark FREE and demonstrate a row, column or diagonal of three. Model one call and give time to locate the picture.

6-12 min / Call a short round

Shuffle the tiles and call direct names. Show a picture when needed. Keep called tiles aside. In a later round, add a familiar clue, checking that it identifies only one animal in this set.

12-15 min / Speak with a partner

Learners choose two animals and practise 'It is a ...' or 'I like ...'. Let learners point, name or make a sentence according to their current language level.

Quick learning check

Can each learner name or identify two animals without copying a partner? Ask for one short phrase where appropriate.

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Caller prompts and teaching notes | Keep beside the caller sheet

Start with direct labels. Keep called tiles aside. Mark FREE before play; check a row, column or diagonal of three against the call record. All cards share eight items: line wins may tie and full-house games finish together.

Eight labels - matched to the card pack

Cat	Find the cat. It says meow.
Dog	Find the dog. It barks.
Bird	Find the bird. It has feathers.
Fish	Find the fish. It has fins.
Lion	Find the lion. It roars.
Elephant	Find the elephant. It has a long trunk.
Monkey	Find the monkey. This animal can climb trees.
Rabbit	Find the rabbit. It has long ears.

Teaching note

Start with the animal names rather than unfamiliar riddles. Learners can recognise pictures before they can read the labels. For adult beginners, keep the tone age-appropriate and invite learners to contribute known words in another language if they wish.

Support / extension

Support: Say and show each animal together. Model the phrase 'It is a ...' and let a partner help locate the square.

Extend: Let a learner be the caller, or use an agreed descriptive clue without first saying the name. Follow a match with a short sentence.