

Brain Games – Gehirnspiele – Denkspiele

This was used on Sunday morning at the Year 10 Camp (run by the AGTV Committee before partner schools and exchanges were so popular) as the last activity prior to lunch when tired teachers needed time to 'vege out' and was one of the most popular activities of the camp. It is a chance to use all of those little things you had always wondered how you could work into a lesson.

The concept is like that of Learning Stations. At each station students complete an activity that earns them points for their team. The number of stations usually depended on the number of teams and/or teachers available/needed to monitor the activities. The group should not be larger than 4 or 5 or it becomes a little unruly.

Each team has one score sheet and begins at different stations. They can use dictionaries. A teacher rings the bell to start the game. Teams have e.g. 5 mins at each station to complete the task before the bell rings again. Points are tallied and the bell rings again and teams move to the next station. Bad luck if they have not completed the task. The score sheets (and any other accompanying sheets) were tallied and major prizes awarded after lunch. Keep is simple.

Stations included at different camps:

Landkarte und Hauptstädte – Students had to assemble a large map of German states with Switzerland and Austria for one point and then match the states and their capital cities. Eg 3 points per successful activity (not each correct match – or will take too long to score – perhaps 1 point if got some right. Sometimes we timed them and they only had 2 minutes to complete each task – and if they did not complete it, bad luck! The larger the map the better and we had it laminated. (This could also be used in class with each group being timed, the fastest to complete the map being the winner.)

Zungenbrecher – Students had to chant a *Zungenbrecher* in unison three times through without hesitation or pronunciation mistakes. A point if they do so successfully. Quite funny to witness!
We used: *Wir Wiener Weibe wollen weiße Wäsche waschen*
Wenn wir wüßten, wo warmes Wasser wär.

Sprichwörter – Students matched the *Sprichwörter* depicted on an old Goethe-Institut calendar – a point for each correct answer. Tip: Have a simple correcting mechanism.

Wortwörtlich – Students work out the word from an old GI calendar.

Berufe – Students match pictures to names of careers – point for each correct match.

Berühmte Daten – Students guess the year of events in history z.B. Der Fall der Mauer. The teacher holds up a card with the name of the event, and is only allowed to say: *(viel) früher / später*. A point for each date guessed correctly.

Sprechblasen – Students matched the sounds to the comic picture – one sheet per team

Lukas, der Frosch – Students played the game and received a point for each correct verb form.

Lebensmittel – Students found out answers to a set of questions around the *Verpackung* of actual *Lebensmittel* (*Müll* brought lovingly back to Oz by some dedicated teachers – Tina and Catherine) z.B. Wie viel Gram hat die Packung Chips?

Compound Nouns: Students work out the meaning of one or several long compound nouns.

Charades: Team members take turns to mime and remainder of team guess the word and receive a point for each correct answer.

Cloze: Students listened to a tape in a space away from group (we used Die Prinzen – *Gabi und Klaus*) and filled in a simple cloze activity for lyrics with a point for each correct answer.

Idea developed by Tina Wilkinson and Catherine Gosling for AGTV Year 10 Camps in the 1990s.
Ideas and all materials shared at a presentation "Obstsalat" at the National Conference in Ballarat.