

eslactive

Kings Cup

Tags: [advanced](#), [beginner](#), [grammar](#), [intermediate](#), [kids](#), [vocabulary](#), [warmer](#)

The Kings Cup ESL game (also known as Ring Of Fire) is an adapted party game in which students complete different challenges depending on the card they pick.

 4+  20-45 mins  Playing Cards

Setup

If you have more than about fifteen or sixteen students, divide the class into smaller groups. You will need one deck of cards per group.

All students in a group sit around one table. On the table, spread the shuffled playing cards face-down so that they form a circle (while still overlapping each other).

Game

1. Students take turns taking a card from the circle, showing it immediately.
2. Depending on the card, one or more students usually have to complete a challenge (often after a mini game). This challenge could be a question, a description task or a tongue twister (try our [Challenge Generator](#) for all of these options). See below for a list of suggested card assignments.
3. Another optional rule is that if a student breaks the circle when they take a card, they also have to complete a challenge. If you do include this rule, tighten the circle as necessary when fewer cards remain.
4. Play the game for as long as desired, or until all the cards have been used.

Kings Cup ESL Game Rules (you may want to write/project these on the board):

Card	Rule	Description
Ace	Waterfall	This student says a category of personal preference (e.g. My favourite pizza topping). In a clockwise directions, the students take turns saying their preference. However, all the students have to hold their breath from the start until they answer!
2	You	This student chooses another person to do a challenge.
3	Me	This student does a challenge.
4	Floor	The last student to touch the floor has to do a challenge.
5	Survive	This student has to name five luxury items they would want if they were stranded on a desert island.
6	Never Have I Ever	The students take turns saying things they have never done, but they think others have. Each student holds up three fingers to represent three lives. If a student has done an activity, they lose a life. The first student to lose all three lives has to do a challenge.
7	Heaven	The last student to raise their hand has to do a challenge.
8	Mate	This student picks another student to be their 'mate'. Every time the original student has to do a challenge, their mate has to do it as well.
9	Rhyme	This student says a word. The students take turns (in a clockwise direction), saying words that rhyme with that word. This is too difficult for beginner/lower intermediate students, so try words that start or end with the same letter instead. This is repeated round the circle until one student can't say a word, or repeats a previous word. That student has to do a challenge.

10	Categories	This student thinks of a vocabulary category (e.g. pets, sports, green foods). They say one item from this category, then the student to their left has to say another item. This is repeated round the circle until one student can't say an item, or repeats a previous item. That student has to do a challenge.
J	Thumb Master	This student can put their thumb on the table at any point during the game. When they do that, all the other students must copy them. The last student to copy them has to do a challenge.
Q	Question Master	This student gets to ask any other student a question, and they have to answer (within reason!).
K	King For The Day	The student describes what they would do if they were in power for a day (using grammar appropriate to their level).

Target Language

The Kings Cup ESL game is a really fun extended warmer or time-filler when you need a more relaxed class. It can be used with any level, simply adapt any challenges as appropriate.

You could also adapt your challenges to particular grammar/vocabulary topics (using fill-in-the-blank type questions, word definitions etc.) and use it as a review game.