

50 REVIEW GAMES **GAME 11**

Vocabulary Basketball

Earn your shot, one sign at a time

Vocabulary Basketball turns review into a game students want a turn at. A correct ASL challenge earns a shot at the basket, so every question carries a small reward and the whole class stays in motion. The signing is what scores the point; the basket is what makes them want to sign again.

TIME NEEDED

15–25 minutes

GROUP SIZE

Small groups or whole class

GRADE LEVELS

Middle, High, College

01 Purpose & Objective

Review vocabulary while motivating students through movement, teamwork, and positive reinforcement. Because a turn is earned rather than assigned, students stay ready for the next challenge instead of waiting to be called on.

Students demonstrate accurate ASL skills to earn a basketball shot for their team.

02 Materials & Skills

Materials

- Soft foam ball or mini basketball
- Wastebasket or classroom hoop
- Review cards or slips of paper

ASL Skills Practiced

- Expressive ASL
- Receptive ASL
- Vocabulary recall
- Grammar
- Fingerspelling

03 Setup

1. **Divide students into teams.** Small teams keep the rotation moving and the wait between turns short.
2. **Place the basket in a safe location.** Away from desks, screens, and walkways, with room to stand behind the shooting line.
3. **Prepare your review cards.** Pull from the challenges on the next page, or write your own from the current unit.
4. **Explain safety and sportsmanship.** One shooter at a time, foam ball only, and everyone watches the signing.

Before You Start

Set the shooting line close enough that most students can make the basket. The shot is the reward for good signing, not a second test — if it becomes the hard part, the review stops being the point.

04 Directions

1. A student draws a review challenge.
2. They complete the challenge correctly in ASL.
3. A correct response earns one shot at the basket.
4. A made basket earns the team one point.
5. Rotate through the teams until everyone has had a turn.

Keep the Class Signing Between Turns

While one student shoots, give the rest of the class something to watch for — ask them to sign the same vocabulary word back, or to show a thumbs up when the signing was accurate. It keeps thirty students practicing instead of one.

05 Sample Review Challenges

Pull from these directly, or use them as models for challenges built on your current unit.

1. Sign a vocabulary word.
2. Identify a word the teacher signs.
3. Use a sign in a complete ASL sentence.
4. Correct an incorrect sign.
5. Fingerspell a vocabulary word.
6. Answer a WH-question.
7. Use two vocabulary words together.
8. Describe a picture.
9. Explain a classifier.
10. Complete a short conversation.

06 Scoring Variations

Standard

One correct answer earns one shot at the basket.

Bonus

A complete ASL sentence earns an extra shot.

Team

Everyone participates before anyone repeats a turn.

Challenge Mode

Require two successful review challenges before a student earns a shot, or move the shooting line farther back for teams that are running away with the score.

07 Assessment Ideas

Observe students for:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Vocabulary accuracy | ☐ Receptive understanding |
| ☐ ASL grammar | ☐ Teamwork and encouragement |
| ☐ Participation and confidence | ☐ Willingness to try a harder card |

The scoreboard is not the assessment. A student who signs a difficult word clearly and misses the shot has shown you exactly what you were looking for.

Paul's Best Practice

Celebrate excellent signing as enthusiastically as a made basket. Students take their cue from what you react to, and if the loudest moment in the room is always the basket, that is what they will play for.

Communication is the real goal. The basket is just how we keep score.

Why It Works

Review is tied directly to something students want, so the room stays engaged while everyone keeps practicing. Movement resets attention between questions, teams give quieter students cover to try, and the wait for a turn is short enough that no one checks out. The vocabulary gets repeated far more often than it would in a worksheet, and students volunteer for the harder cards because a harder card is still just one shot away.

Quick Tips

- ✓ Use a foam ball or a soft mini basketball.
- ✓ Rotate teams so the same students are not always shooting.
- ✓ Mix easy and difficult review questions in the same stack.
- ✓ Vary the challenge type so students cannot rehearse one answer.
- ✓ Keep the pace quick — short turns keep the whole room watching.

Continue Exploring

Next in the collection:

▶ **Game #12: Roll the Dice**

▶ **Game #13: Hot Seat**

▶ **Game #14: Vocabulary Pyramid**

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Extend the Activity

Let students write the review cards for the next round. Deciding what makes a fair challenge forces them back through the vocabulary a second time, and they will hold each other to a higher standard than you would.