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## Balderdash

Age/Level: Elementary and above    Time: 25 minutes    Players: Individual

Preparation: A list of obscure words and their definitions

Aim: To invent false definitions and guess true definitions

This ESL word game is based on a popular board game of the same name. Students invent false definitions for words and win points by correctly guessing true definitions.

Before you play the game, have the students find obscure words and their definitions. Alternatively, you can use the sample word list below.

### Procedure

Split the class into groups of four or five and provide small slips of paper for players to write definitions on.

Each player should have a few obscure words and their definitions on a piece of paper.

Players take it in turns to be the leader. The leader of the round chooses one of their words, reads it aloud, and spells it.

Each player then invents a false meaning for this word that could fool the other players and writes it on a slip of paper.

The leader should copy the true definition on to their slip of paper, so that they cannot be seen reading from the word card.

Each player then hands their definition to the leader. The leader reads aloud each definition, including the correct one.

The players then vote on which definition they think is correct.

The leader reveals the true meaning and adds up the scores.

Then, another player becomes the new leader and play continues.

### Scoring:

1 point for every vote your false definition receives.

2 points if you choose the correct meaning.

The leader gets 3 points if nobody chooses the correct meaning.

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Balderdash word list

<b>aulete</b>	a person who plays the flute
<b>belocolus</b>	a magic stone that makes a soldier invisible
<b>bettong</b>	a small kangaroo
<b>boletus</b>	a variety of wild mushroom
<b>collutory</b>	antiseptic mouthwash
<b>crwth</b>	a 6-stringed violin
<b>dorking</b>	a chicken with 5 toes
<b>exoduster</b>	someone who leaves town in a hurry
<b>fard</b>	to put on makeup
<b>forney</b>	a ring worn on the fourth finger
<b>galligaskins</b>	loose baggy trousers
<b>gravid</b>	pregnant
<b>hippiater</b>	a horse doctor
<b>histrixite</b>	a Tasmanian mineral containing copper and iron
<b>jargonelle</b>	a pear which ripens early
<b>mantelet</b>	a bullet-proof screen
<b>mawworm</b>	a hypocrite
<b>noddlethatcher</b>	someone who makes hats and wigs
<b>oxter</b>	to walk along arm in arm
<b>ozostomia</b>	bad breath
<b>pistareen</b>	a Spanish coin worth 20 cents
<b>ramfeezled</b>	exhausted, tired
<b>sclaff</b>	to scrape the ground with a golf club before hitting the ball
<b>screeve</b>	to draw pictures on a sidewalk for money
<b>shiggers</b>	tight trousers worn by football players
<b>splate</b>	a substance used in shoe making
<b>toison</b>	the wool of a young sheep
<b>tranka</b>	a long cylindrical box which jugglers balance with their feet
<b>wakiup</b>	an American Indian hut
<b>wallygowdy</b>	a precious jewel or gem