



Laughing and Learning with Jimmy Fallon

12 Ideas for Grade 4+ Using

12 Games from The Tonight Show

**Original Lessons written by
Ryan Tindale**

**Original Videos from
The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon's
YouTube Channel**

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Be sure to subscribe to Jimmy Fallon's YouTube channel to get the daily alerts of new guests and fun games from previous shows:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/latenight>

Direct your email enquires or comments to:

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How did Jimmy Fallon make his way into my classroom?

The after-recess routine in my Grade 4/5 class was to flip on a short video while the students ate their snacks. Thoughtful, theatrical, funny, and foolish were all videos on the menu.

One morning, I found the Egg Russian Roulette game for the first time with Fallon and Beckham. After my usual preview and seal of approval, we laughed for four minutes while snacks were eaten. The game was easy enough for my 9 and 10-year-olds to pick up because it starts with a simple carton of a dozen eggs where eight of the twelve are hard-boiled and four are raw. The guest grabs an egg with some trepidation, gives it a little shake, and smacks it against his or her head. Fallon follows. The first one to have two raw eggs dripping down their brow is the loser. Simple enough.

It wasn't until a day or two later that I realized the mathematical potential in this. In other words, the whole dozen could represent a denominator and the four raw eggs and the eight hard-boiled eggs could be a part or numerator. This game led to Fraction 101 where students could learn about parts and the whole. Within the video, every hit serves up a new fraction, whether it's $\frac{3}{5}$ and then $\frac{3}{4}$, or $\frac{1}{3}$ followed by $\frac{2}{3}$. I made up a quick worksheet and asked students to track how the fraction changes, paying attention to equivalent fractions.

I could use a textbook to deliver well-research lessons, offer a YouTube video to supplement, and have manipulatives at students' desks to accompany the sheet work. Although these traditional and commonly used teaching practices are all important, what had been missing was something that I feel is so important to teaching... laughter. It clears our thoughts, calms the nerves, and readies the mind.

Fallon soon became a regular in my classroom helping me teach art, literacy, math, social studies, and a few other subjects. He helped us laugh our way through many difficult curriculum standards. I've included a dozen of my favourite lessons for you and hope you see both the integrity of the pedagogy and the fun you can have when you include smiling and laughter with learning.

Thanks to my wife Jeanna, for encouraging me to think outside the box.

Thanks to Jennifer Drope for her help and direction with this project.

And although we haven't met yet, thanks to Jimmy for creative games to teach from that make my students laugh!

Remember that Pixels affect Perception,

Ryan Tindale

List of Video Links

Click on any, or type, the links below to watch the videos in this resource.

1. [Jimmy Fallon & Alec Baldwin's 80's Cop Show \(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon\)](#)
2. [Egg Russian Roulette with David Beckham \(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon\)](#)
3. ["Tonight Show Funny Face Off" with Jude Law - YouTube](#)
4. [Catchphrase with Jim Parsons, Miles Teller and Wiz Khalifa](#)
5. [Nonsense Karaoke with Chris Pratt](#)
6. [Word Sneak with Steve Carell](#)
7. [Phone Booth with Kevin Spacey](#)
8. [Water War with Jason Statham \(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon\)](#)
9. [Pop Quiz with Kelly Ripa -- Part 1](#) & [Pop Quiz with Kelly Ripa -- Part 2](#)
10. [True Confessions with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler](#)
11. [Say Anything with Blake Lively](#)
12. [First Drafts of Rock: "Fun, Fun, Fun" by The Beach Boys \(w/Kevin Bacon\)](#)

List of Curriculum Links

Curriculum Area	Literacy	Math	Drama	Music	Art	H /SS
Video						
Point Pleasant Police Department	x		x			
Egg Russian Roulette		x				
Funny Faceoff Drawing Portraits					x	
Catch Phrase	x	x				
Nonsense Karaoke	x		x	x		
Word Sneak	x		x			
Phone Booth Review	x	x	x	x	x	x
Water War		x				
Pop Quiz	x	x	x	x	x	x
True Confessions	x		x			
Say Anything	x	x				x
First Cuts of Music	x		x	x		

List Celebrity Biographies

Jimmy Fallon

Comic sketch actor who rose to fame on Saturday Night Live in the late 90s. Known for his spot-on celebrity impersonations and for incorporating music into his comedy, he became the host of the tonight show in 2014. Jimmy's Tonight Show segments have become a favourite trending item on social media.

Alec Baldwin

Known as one of the Baldwin Brothers and a former heart-throb, Alec Baldwin is a versatile and well-known Hollywood actor. He's been in many films and genres, but has a knack for comedy and has hosted Saturday Night Live 16 times, holding the record for most frequent host since 2011.

David Beckham

UK Soccer Superstar, David Beckham is as much Hollywood royalty as he is of Sports. Known for his bending and free-range kicks in soccer, he inspired the title of the movie "Bend it Like Beckham". He is married to former Spice Girl, Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham and lives in California with his family.

Jude Law

UK actor Jude Law found fame in Hollywood in the late 90s, early 2000s with such movies as "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and "Aviator" and made headlines for his personal life and romantic relationships. His most current movie is "Spy", co-starring comedian Melissa McCartney.

Jim Parsons

Texas born actor Jim Parsons is best known for portraying the character Sheldon Cooper on the show "Big Bang Theory". He has also been in the movies "Home" (voice actor) and "Garden State" and is one of the most successful actors in television today.

Wiz Khalifa

Wiz Khalifa is a 27 year old rapper, songwriter and actor who was born in North Dakota and got his big break at age 16. Signed to Rostrum Records, one of his most popular songs is "See You Again".

Chris Pratt

Got his start in Hollywood in the early 2000s with his role in the show Everwood as Bright Abbott and then went on to the show Parks and Recreation as Andy Dwyer. He became a bonafied movie star when he starred in the movie, “Guardians of the Galaxy” and more recently, “Jurassic World”. He is married to actress Anna Farris.

Steve Carell

Perhaps best known for his role as Michael Scott on the show “The Office”, Steve Carrell started as a sketch comedy actor and was a correspondent on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart for 5 years before starring in his own show. Now, he mainly works in movies, with one of his most notable roles being the voice of Gru in “Despicable Me”.

Kevin Spacey

A two time academy award winner is known for starring roles in “Pay it Forward”, and “Seven”. Also working as a film director, writer, producer, and comedian, he’s currently the star of the widely successful Netflix series, “House of Cards”.

Jason Statham

This English-born actor is best known for his bad-boy, anti-hero persona characters in films, including, “The Italian Job” and “Fast and Furious 7”. As a martial artist and former driver, Statham’s roles are perfectly suited to his life on and off-screen. Recently, he tried his hand at comedy acting, co-starring with Melissa McCarthy in the film “Spy” (2015).

Kelly Ripa

Got her start on the soap opera, All my Children in the 80s and is now best known as the Host of the morning talk show “Live with Kelly and Michael”. She lives in New York City with her husband Mark Consuelos (her co-star on All my Children) and 3 children

Tina Fey

One of the most famous Alumni from Saturday Night Live, co-hosting the Weekend Update segment of the show with Jimmy Fallon, Tina Fey is known for her sharp wit and zany humour. She has produced movies, such as “Mean Girls” and the television shows “30 Rock” and “The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”. She is also known for hosting the Golden Globe Awards alongside her best friend and former SNL castmate, Amy Poehler.

Amy Poehler

Began on the SNL stage with her best friend, Tina Fey and Jimmy Fallon in the late nineties, moving onto start in the Emmy nominated show, “Parks and Recreation” and appearing in several comedy movies. She co-hosted the Golden Globes with Tina Fey in 2013 and 2014 and has her own website called, “Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls” which focuses on empowering young women (www.amysmartgirls.com)

Blake Lively

Best known for her role on the show “Gossip Girl”, Blake Lively is one of the most famous in young Hollywood. Married to actor Ryan Reynolds and mom to baby James, she is often in the news over her personal life even more than her professional life.

Kevin Bacon

Voted by *The Guardian* as one of the best actors never to receive an Oscar nomination, he’s appeared in over a dozen movies including the popular musical drama “Footloose”. He’s also an accomplished musician forming the band, “The Bacon Brothers” with his brother Michael.

1.

Alec Baldwin from the Point Pleasant Police Department Teaches Alliteration and Script Writing



Video length: 8.17

Filmed: October 21, 2013

Search: [Jimmy Fallon & Alec Baldwin's 80's Cop Show \(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon\)](#)

Alternate video: [Jimmy Fallon & Jon Hamm's '80s TV Show -- Part 1](#) (also Part 2)

Considerations: None

A *Saturday Night Live* counterpart from Fallon's day, Alec Baldwin teamed up with Jimmy Fallon to make this ill-mannered, talk-with-your-mouthful skit. Not only is it gross, but it's p-p-perfect for teaching a-a-alliteration. Playing on the letter P, Fallon and Baldwin play Pete and Paul, two cops for the Point Pleasant Police Department. The opening scene has the two of them chatting it up in the precinct lunchroom with a banquet's worth of food. Pete and Paul manipulate the script to include as many words that start with the letter P as possible. Normally, that would be funny in itself, but serve it up with the fact that the P-P-P sound is dramatically emphasized with a mouthful of food. Food starts flying and the audience's laughter starts flying. Pete and Paul sample their way through **pretzels**, **peanuts**, **p-p-potato chips**, and a big plate of **pumpkin pie** blanketed with whipped cream, all washed down with a can of **Dr. Pepper** and fruit **punch**. You're even offered a traditional food fight that every student wishes they could take part in, and you can use to hook them. Strategically include this skit in your lesson and the learning will stick to their brains like the sticky pop that soaked Fallon's fake mustache.

One note about the video is that because it is filmed live with all the wet and sticky food, they've broken it into three different parts to give the crew time to tidy up and reload the food. While the crew takes a minute to prep the food for the next scene, Fallon and Baldwin return to the interview desk huffing and puffing. It's really quite funny. If time doesn't permit for eight minutes, then cue up one or two of the three-minute bits.

Alliteration is where words with the same first consonant sound come after one another. The familiar example is when that guy “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.” I remember my grandfather always wanting a “cup of coffee in a copper coffee cup.” Alliteration is fun to teach and works really well in poetry.

Here are a few different ways to teach the lesson:

- Frontload the learning with a game where students pair off with a buddy and you shout out a letter. Students have one minute to write down as many words as they can that start with that letter. Invite two ringers up to the front to challenge each other in front of the class. For a quieter activity, have them write down their answers and the one with the most words wins!
- You could also have students yell out words one at a time that start with the same letter (finger, Fred, fries, fudge...) and if one pauses, give them only 3-5 seconds, and then the other student could win that round. In the next round, choose a different letter of the alphabet.
- A variation is to have students watch the first two parts and then have them write a third scene with as many words with a P sound as possible. Just omit the food!
- Students could also watch the Fallon/Baldwin skit, and then write a new script for the Fallon/Hamm skit where they're two pet rangers for the Palisades Park Pet Patrol.

2. Breaking Eggs with David Beckham to Learn Fractions, Decimals, Ratios, and Percent



Video length: 4:10

Filmed January 31, 2014

Search: [Egg Russian Roulette with David Beckham \(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon\)](#)

Alternate video: Fallon also plays this game with Tom Cruise, Bradley Cooper, and 3 other Hollywood stars. You can also try Egg Russian Rouge-lette with Drew Barrymore.

Considerations: Watch out for the occasional swear word that's beeped out.

Jimmy Fallon has always been a regular in my classroom but this special video was my first experience including him in the academic part of my classroom program. Parents and colleagues were as curious as the students were about how cracking eggs over their head could be a brilliant chance to learn math. The game is introduced in each video by Steve Higgins, who is the announcer for *The Tonight Show*. In a dozen eggs, in this case, 8 of the 12 are hard-boiled and 4 of the 12 are raw. Starting with the guest, they each choose an egg and smash it against his/her head. The loser is the one who ends up with two raw eggs smashed against his/her head. Easy enough!

The challenge lies in linking this to math, so students can learn about the denominator and numerator. The dozen eggs serve as the whole – the denominator. The hard-boiled and raw eggs are parts of the whole – the numerator. The hard-boiled fraction begins as $8/12$. The raw fraction begins as $4/12$. When the eggs start cracking, the fractions begin cracking. Check out the answers for the David Beckham video with some explanations on the following page.

Begin by watching the video to see how the game unfolds. Laugh too! I've done this lesson with two different focuses: teachers can have the fraction change before or after each hit. For example, the fraction on hit 1 could be written “**before** Beckham chose an egg ($4/12$),” or you could write how the fraction changed “**after** he chose and got hit ($3/12$).” Teachers can focus on what the fraction **is** going into hit 4, or how the fraction changed once the **egg was used**.

The numbers in the chart look at how the fraction changes *after* the hit.

Finally, here are some prompts to rouse students' curiosity about the grid below.

- When would be the best time to enter the game? Support your reason with data.
- What do you notice about the hard-boiled column for throws 4-8?
- How can you put all the fractions in simplest form?
- Why does one column go up and the other go down?
- How are $\frac{2}{6}$ and $\frac{3}{9}$ different from each other?
- What are two equivalent fractions for each of them?
- When one column is 33% or 66%, why is the other the opposite?
- When discussing thirds, ask students to find the decimal place of $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ to see 33.333333% and 66.666666%. Ask why it doesn't neatly add up to 100%.
- How many eggs are left over when the game ends?

Egg Roulette Answers for Jimmy Fallon and David Beckham's Egg Roulette Game
Find it here: bit.ly/eggroulette

Smack Against the Head: Order of Hits	A Hard Boiled Egg Hit	A Raw Egg Hit
Beginning	8 / 12 66%	4 / 12 33%
1 DB	8 / 11 72%	3 / 11 18% David found his first raw egg
2 JF	7 / 10 70%	3 / 10 30%
3 DB	6 / 9 66% Point out it's 66% or 2/3 as an equivalent fraction	3 / 9 33%
4 JF	6/8 75%	2 / 8 25% Jimmy found his first raw egg
5 DB	5 / 7 71%	2/7 29%
6 JF	4/6 66%	2/6 33%
7 DB	3/5 60%	2/5 40%
8 JF At 3:20, Higgins says, you have a 1 in 5 chance and then corrects himself and says $\frac{2}{5}$ based on hit 7. See if the students catch that it's $\frac{1}{5}$ or $\frac{2}{5}$	2/4 50%	2/4 50% You can see that the fractions for getting a raw or hard-boiled egg are the same.
9 DB After hit 8, he has a 2/4 chance of getting hit. Teacher could point out that that's equal to half. Students can see that hits 10, 11, and 12 are based on three leftover eggs – 1 would be left raw because they started with 4. Beckham found 2 and Fallon found 1.	2/3 66%	1 / 3 33% Beckham loses because he got his second raw egg.
10 When Fallon won, the last fraction was $\frac{1}{3}$ meaning there were 3 eggs left over.		
11		
12		

My Name:

Egg Roulette Guest:

Smack Against the Head	A Hard-Boiled Egg Hit	A Raw Egg Hit
Beginning	8 / 12	4 / 12
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

My Name:

Egg Roulette Guest:

Write down the fraction, percent, and decimal

Circle which one you're recording:

Hard-boiled Egg Hits

Raw Egg Hits

Smack Against the Head	Fraction	Percent	Decimal
Beginning			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

3.

Imitating Funny Faces to Teach Portraits with Jude Law

****bonus 4 week portrait unit for Art is included****



Video length: 3:14

Filmed: March 25, 2014

Search: ["Tonight Show Funny Face Off" with Jude Law - YouTube](#)

Alternate video: There's a second Funny-Face Off with Ricky Gervais

Considerations: Both videos are fun and appropriate for all grades.

The Tonight Show blasted out an all-call for parents to send in videos of their kids' funniest faces. Jimmy and his guest recreated the faces live on the show. It's really quite fun because both 4- and 84-year-olds have funny faces. I used this video at the end of a four-week unit on drawing portraits as outlined below:

Week 1

- I started with a quick mini-lesson on the dimensions and proportions of a face and then had the students watch one of the dozens of videos on YouTube. My class of 20+ each had a laptop and a sketchpad. A computer (or any device for that matter) offers the opportunity to press pause to practise, rewind if they missed something, or fast forward if they already figured it out.

Week 2

- After spending a day or two being introduced to the proportions of a face, the students started looking at the proportions of someone else's face. To do this, students had the choice to use Google Drawing or Microsoft Publisher. They also needed to use the Snipping Tool located in the accessories tab, or another tool that had the ability to take screenshots. Students then found a favourite singer, actor, athlete, or someone else and snipped a frontal view of their face. It's similar to taking a traditional screenshot. Once it was snipped, they copied and pasted it into Publisher or Google Drawing, and then using an oval and lines, students placed an oval over the face, and sectioned it off

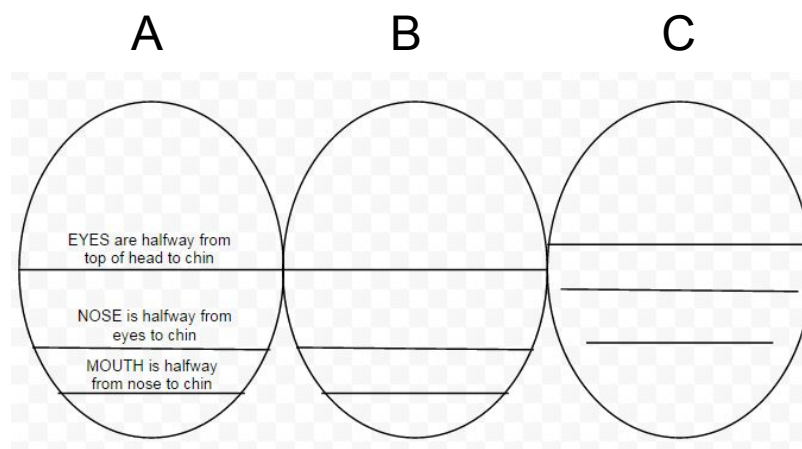
using the lines. Using the proportions and dimensions of a face they were familiar with proved helpful. After sectioning off two or three faces, the fourth picture was to be their own face. They did this by using the integrated webcam on the computer to take a “selfie” and then used the Snipping Tool to capture their selfie.

Week 3

- Up to this point, students had watched and practised, and then zeroed in on the proportions of various faces. After taking a week off, now it was time to bring back the pencil and sketchbook and have them draw their own portrait. Your students can use a mirror if you have them available in your school or they can snap a selfie with their device. They were given a week to produce a self portrait to be assessed. My students were only 10 years old so I didn't make the focus on how lifelike their drawing was (although we were staying away from caricatures). My success criteria focused more on proportions and understanding of the basic features of a face, rather than recreating meticulous eyes, nose, and mouth.

Week 4

- This is where Jimmy Fallon, Jude Law, a silly 8-year-old and lots of laughter were cued as a special ending to the month-long unit. After watching the video, you can pause it after any funny face and see how the proportions change when the face is turned, tweaked, and twisted. For example, in the last clip when Fallon and Law try making the face together, you'll notice when their chins raise and heads lean back, the mouth and nose raise quite a bit, but the eyes raise slightly making the proportions appear squished together. After watching the video and having a quick mini-lesson on how proportions change, students are then free to watch the video and draw a few of the funny faces. My favourite part of this four-week unit is always watching them smile and giggle as they draw the faces in this last week. Have fun!



4.

Playing Catch Phrase with Jim Parsons and Wiz Khalifa

Video length: 4.44

Filmed: March 16, 2015

Search: "[Catchphrase with Jim Parsons, Miles Teller and Wiz Khalifa](#)"

Alternate video: There are over a dozen

Catchphrase videos on *The Tonight Show's* YouTube channel. The recommended one has the most views and Wiz Khalifa was popular at the time.

Considerations: I haven't watched all of them... sorry.



This is a high-octane game that takes a few minutes to set up, but students love this creative way to review material covered in class. In the video, Fallon and three guests stand around a square table in pairs with a stack of cards and a one-minute timer. The partners stand across from each other, not shoulder to shoulder. The timer starts with a metronome sounding out regular beats. As the time winds down, the beats get quicker and quicker. If I'm playing with Jimmy, and Ed and Ted are partners, I would stand across from Jimmy and provide clues to the word in front of me. For example, if the word is grape, I'd offer information like, "It's a fruit," "It's small," "Comes in green and purple," etc. When he gets the right answer, the person to my right or left goes immediately, and we work around the circle of four. The losing team is the one holding the timer as time runs out.

The game can be played with four students standing around a group of desks or just in a circle, with the pairs standing across from one another. Give them each a folded sticky note and don't let them see it beforehand. Part of the fun is seeing the spontaneity in their answers. I use the one-minute timer on YouTube, press 'Go', and then have one student read a clue while their buddy tries to solve the word. The video is laid out pretty clearly.

One tip is to get students involved in the learning and have them think up their own answers. I always order extra sticky notes in September and keep the stacks handy for activities like these. With students sitting in their home groups of four, I pass out a dozen to runners who distribute them to their group. Each student then writes down ideas related to the topic on two or three sticky notes (examples below). This takes about one minute. Have the runners return them to you and you have two to three responses from 25 students in less than five minutes. Toss them in a small book bin or borrow a student's cap and you're ready to go.

Here are a few variations to the game for different subjects and learning outcomes:

If you're studying nouns, choose GRAPE and give clues.

- It's a fruit
- It's small
- Comes in green and purple
- Sometimes have seeds in them

If you're studying verbs, choose JUMP but have students use synonyms.

- Leap
- Pounce
- Bounce

If you use this game for math, have each round focus on a number and then exploit it with different equations. For example, for the number 18, the students could come up with questions similar to these.

- $15+3$ (simple addition)
- $22 - 4$ (simple subtraction)
- $17 + 1$ (easy primary addition)
- 3×6 (multiplication)
- $36 / 2$ (division)
- $4 + 6 + 8$ (3-number equations)
- $27 - 3 - 4 - 2$ (4-number equations)
- $6 + 2 \times 6$ (order of operation)
- $-3 + 21$ (integers)
- $3 + x = 21$ (algebra)
- $11 + 7 = x + 3$ (algebra)

You could try this game after a unit review focusing on characters from history or even use it for terms from a science unit.

You could also recall favourite books you've read through the year with students or use it for favourite movies, shows or songs. It's an easy, interactive game.

5. Singing Nonsense Karaoke with Chris Pratt for Poetry

Video Length: 4.59

Filmed: April 24, 2015

Search: "[Nonsense Karaoke with Chris Pratt](#)" on YouTube

Alternate video: None

Considerations: Part of the humour in this activity is to

see how outrageous and utterly ridiculous the rhyming can be. Teachers will want to preview this video before hand to see what they feel comfortable using as some language/content may offend.



After taking into account the warnings above, the video really is quite funny and fits very well into a gradual release of responsibility where teachers start off with direct instruction and gradually build up confidence in a topic to release students for success. In the video, Fallon and his guest play a wacky version of karaoke where instead of the correct words sliding across the screen, they get absurd, nonsensical sentences. This is such a silly and safe way to introduce the idea of rhyming.

In your own classroom, start by practising syllables. Then have students count out the syllables to *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. In the first line, they'll count out seven syllables: Ma-ry had a lit-tle lamb. Let the challenges begin with students competing to come up with the craziest words for the nursery rhyme. How about something like, "donkeys swam through blue oceans" or, "hockey's played on wet green grass." Follow this up with some nonsense versions of popular songs that are on video. Make sure you give students the lyrics ahead of time and be sure to count out the syllables together to make sure they're matching. Then when the students share their nonsense karaoke, be sure to use a karaoke version.

When you get to the rhyming structure of poetry, this activity is great because students are comfortable rhyming without being restricted to a single topic. It's wide open. They can talk about toffee, tigers, and tablets in the first three lines.

An extension to the rhyming structure lessons are to have students consider what rhyming structure their nursery rhyme or hit song match. For example, AABB is where lines 1 and 2 match, as do 3 and 4. Here's an example:

- A - There once lived a boy named John,
- A - he loved to go cut his lawn.
- B - He was tall and very cool,
- B - except when he started to drool.

When showing the video, the first song by Chris Pratt will clearly get the message across. You can show the second and third songs too. It's up to you!

Commonly Used Poetic Rhyming Structures

Name:

AABB

I like sweet candy
I think it's dandy.
I like to eat meat,
But love eating sweets.

ABAB

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
My friend's name is Ted,
Guess what? He's a shoe!

Add your own

ABAB -- each line has 5 syllables.

Roses are bright red,
Violets are soft blue.
My friend's name is Ted,
Guess what? He's a shoe!

Add your own with matching syllables

ABCB -- each line has 4 syllables.

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
I love coffee,
What about you.

Add your own with matching syllables

6. Sneaking Words in with Steve Carell

Video length: 5.58

Filmed: October 9, 2014

Search: "[Word Sneak with Steve Carell](#)" on YouTube

Alternate video: There are six Word Sneak episodes on *The Tonight Show's* YouTube channel. Others include Chris Pratt, Martin Short, Russell Brand, Ricky Gervais, and Brian Cranston

Considerations: The Steve Carell video is the place to start as the words are all acceptable, but teachers should preview the rest to see what they feel comfortable using as some language/content may offend certain age groups.



If you and I were having a conversation about the weather, and someone handed you a card with the word “shoe” on it, how could you seamlessly work “shoe” into a sentence? Maybe that shoe makes your feet hot because of the hot summer weather that’s outside. Or maybe you could talk about the new shoes that you bought your tween before school. That’s the humour in this fun game. It teaches students to be witty and quick on their toes, and fits great into an improv unit in drama. The game is such that Fallon and his guests start a conversation and once the guests use up a word, they flip a card over and work the next word into a meaningful sentence. Part of the fun with this game is watching the guests squirm as they try to eloquently squeeze these words into a sentence that makes sense. My favourite guest is Ricky Gervais because of his hearty and genuine laughter. He seems to always have fun when he comes on the show! Watch the funny face-off video with him in it.

In the video with Steve Carell, none of the ten words needs to be flagged. They’re safe and innocent, although you may want to explain who Anderson Cooper and The Fonz are. For this activity, have students take some or all of the ten words and craft them into sentences. They can use the ones from the video, which are: moose, zucchini, pantaloons, salamander, Anderson Cooper, ‘The Fonz’, fluffernutter, ‘friend zone’, kumquat, and pelvis. Then watch the video and see if their own sentences are similar to the video’s.

One extension is to limit the words to just people, places, things, adverbs, and adjectives. Use these in conjunction with your grammar or parts of speech lessons.

You could also have one student choose five words and then have their elbow buddy write down the sentences.

If you try this with students coming up to the front, use words that students generated in the class. I've done this by giving each student a sticky note and having them write down a word. Then collect the stickies so you have 20+ words in as little as one minute. Give each student just five words and they have to use them in a sentence in front of the class.

Below is a worksheet for students to record their words and sentences.

Word Sneak

Name:

Examples could be:

glue, shoe, teacher, LeBron James, water, straw, etc.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

7. Cramming Students in a Phonebooth to Review with Kevin Spacey

Video length: 8:05

Filmed: August 14th, 2015

Search: [Phone Booth with Kevin Spacey](#)

Alternate video: none

Considerations: The video has two words bleeped out that are muttered off mike by Spacey. He mutters them while in the phone booth but you can't hear the conversation.



When I watched this video for the first time, I imagined my own students standing inside a hula hoop experiencing the same cramped feeling this game evokes. Kevin Spacey and Jimmy Fallon are each in a separate phone booth with a corded phone. Behind announcer Steve Higgins, is a curtain with the shadows of seven mystery individuals who play a very important role in the game. The game starts with Higgins giving questions to Spacey and Fallon one after the other. With each wrong answer, or each opponent's correct answer, someone from behind the curtain comes out and squishes inside the booth of the person who answered incorrectly. It's really a fun game because after three or four people get inside a glass phone booth, the beginnings of a learning opportunity unfold.

This is a trivia game and it's obvious how the learning happens, so the review opportunities are endless. What's creative is what you might use to replace the phone booth. It needs to be something defined that students can see and remain inside together. It could be a hula hoop on the floor, a taped-off section or four desks in a diamond shape with the middle open for students to stand inside. It's really up to you to be creative.

Once your phone booth is created, have your students make up review questions on a particular unit. Split your class into small groups, thirds, or even in half, and start by asking one person a question. If the answer is wrong, have one of the group members come inside the "phone booth" with the person who answered incorrectly. Then, ask the second person a question. In the Fallon game, they were allowed to consult with people about answers inside their booth. You can keep this rule or omit it. After three or four wrong answers, with three to four tweens or teens in a small space, the beginnings of laughter are there. Why not get kids laughing while they review!

8. 1,2,3 Flip, Splash, War, Math with Jason Statham

Video length: 6.42

Filmed: October 29, 2014

Search: [Water War with Jason Statham \(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon\)](#)



Alternate video: There are five

Water War videos on Fallon's YouTube channel. The Jason Statham video is a good one to start with but teachers should preview the rest to see what they feel comfortable using as some language/content may offend certain age groups.

The traditional card game "War" has math written all over it. All you need is a deck of cards and a few minutes to laugh and practise math skills. Before I give you ideas for using it in your classroom, here is a quick review of the rules.

With a standard deck of shuffled playing cards, two students cut the deck so they each have one half. They count out "1-2-3" and on the count of 3, they flip over one card. The one with the bigger card wins the hand and claims all the cards. If the Jimmy Fallon version was being played, the winner of the hand gets to pour water on the other's head! Using the numbered faces of the cards, Ace would be 1, the numbers 2-10 hold their face value, and the jack, queen, and king would be 11-13. If the Jack-Ace cards are confusing because they don't have numbers, omit them at the beginning. For more details on the game, Google it! The game is pretty straightforward.

Here are a few math ideas:

1. Quick adding... 1,2,3, flip and the first one to solve adding the two cards wins the hand.
2. Subtracting... 1,2,3, flip and you subtract the lower card from the higher card.
3. Algebra with a variable... Two players flip over one card and they solve individually. If Sarah has a 4 and the students know that the total is already 13, then Sara solves $4 + a = 13$. Or Sara solves for her partner's card and the first one wins.
4. Probability:
 - Chance of getting a black card is 1:2
 - Chance of getting an even numbered face card is 5:13
 - Chance of getting an ace is 1:13
 - If I flip over a 7, what's the probability of getting a higher card?
5. Multiplication... 1,2,3, flip and they solve $4 \times \text{queen} (11) = 44$
6. A variation of multiplication could be picking a number before

Laughing and Learning with Jimmy Fallon --- Original Lessons by Ryan Tindale
Original Videos from The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon's [YouTube Channel](#)

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they flip and then multiplying it by that number. If Elijah and Ella choose 5, then 1,2,3, flip and the first one to multiply their own card by 5 wins.

Add your own!

7.

8.

9.

Pop Quiz - Raising the Stakes of Assessment with Kelly Ripa

Video length: 7+ minutes

[Pop Quiz with Kelly Ripa -- Part 1 \(3.53\)](#)

[Pop Quiz with Kelly Ripa -- Part 2 \(3.25\)](#)

Filmed July 9, 2014

Search: Pop Quiz with Kelly Ripa

Alternate video: There's another video with Savannah Guthrie and Matt Lauer. Flip a coin...they're both good!

Considerations: None



Assessment is important. Testing is a life skill. Grade school to grad school is coated with tests, quizzes, and exams. Preparing our students for tests is as much our job as helping them get that A+ with our A+ teaching strategies. So why not prep them Jimmy Fallon style? In this creative, soaking wet game, two guests sit on traditional barber chairs with the foot crank behind. On each of their heads is a large cone hat with a razor sharp tip. Hanging above each guest is a giant four-gallon water balloon taunting the guest to answer correctly. With each wrong answer, or with each correct question your opponent answers correctly, the foot pedal is cranked, lifting you up toward your fate. The explosion of water is instant and hilarious.

Maybe in your class, it's not a balloon. How about a popsicle party? Is \$2.99 for 24 popsicles such a big expense? This could be a variation on the traditional day-before-a-test review game where so many teachers use Jeopardy. Split the class in half and have them answer the review questions and with each incorrect answer, they move one pace closer to their fate. You decide that fate. Have fun reviewing and raising the stakes with a similar idea to *The Tonight Show* game.

10. How Persuasive Can You Be? True Confessions with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler



Video length: 10.43

Filmed: July 14, 2015

Search: [True Confessions with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler](#)

Considerations: This is a mature video so be sure to preview it for suitability in your class. However, the third clip with Amy Poehler is more appropriate for a wider audience.

What do you get when two of the top female comedians in Hollywood get together with Jimmy Fallon? A good laugh! Mix in the fact that these three best friends all worked together on *Saturday Night Live*, and you get some reminiscing, fun bantering, and edgy laughter. When I saw the title of this video, I knew it might fit well with persuasive writing or as an icebreaker after a school holiday, but I wasn't sure if it was more suitable for an adult dinner party or a Grade 6 classroom. The fact that it's ten minutes long, and neatly divided into three parts, I hoped at least one of the three could work. And it did!

In this game each guest writes out two events and places each in a separate envelope. One event is true, the other is a lie. One of the other two people then picks one of the envelopes and the chosen guest must read it aloud. The other two get to grill the person on the details while he or she finagles the description for one minute. I would use this game in a persuasive writing unit to get students ready to build their case and support their claims as two other students try to poke and pry. In other words, they choose their truth and lie and then come up with two or three supports for each. This could also be a great ice breaker in September, or after a Christmas or Spring break.

Tina Fey kicks off the game with her first envelope claiming that she was once mistaken for a prostitute in Monaco. It ends up being true. Jimmy Fallon's envelope stated that he and a friend were robbed by a drug dealer with a sawed-off shotgun when they were younger. It was true! Amy Poehler goes last and her truth was that she once helped Yoko Ono cross the street and that was true too. Since the video is more than ten minutes, I would use the third segment because students will get the point in two to three minutes.

11. Say Something, Say Anything, with Blake Lively

Video length: 3.16

Filmed: April 21, 2015

Search: [Say Anything with Blake Lively](#)

Alternate video: Jimmy does this game with Katie Holmes. Both are equally amusing.

Considerations: None



This silly but fun little game involves no props and no prep. You only need two students who are quick on their feet. In the video, Fallon and his guest, Blake Lively, take turns saying obscure, random words immediately after one another. The one who stutters, stammers, or stops for a second loses the round and gets something wrapped around his face that's found in every classroom across our great country... scotch tape. Not literally the whole roll, but a nice healthy piece twisted and stretched to set the face in a laughable new shape. Watching what Blake Lively does to Jimmy gives a clear and telling picture of the game.

How could you use it in the classroom? Well the obvious fun is evident, but the opportunity to practice curriculum goes a little deeper. Grab two students and you could have them:

1. Practice their multiplication table by counting by 2, then 3, and on up to 12.
2. Have them say only prime or composite numbers, or factors of some number that you call out.
3. Have them say something that focuses on a lesson that you've given. Maybe they can say only verbs, adjectives, or nouns. Perhaps you want to bump up the time to two or three seconds after each word.
4. They could say elements in the periodic table or explorers from history class.
5. Add this game to music class and have them say something related to favourite singers or album names.

Or just have them say something. Anything! And feel free to change the stakes if you run out of tape. Remember to teach smarter by having fun.

12

Having “Fun, Fun, Fun”

Writing First Drafts for Poetry with Kevin Bacon

Video length: 3.30

Filmed: July 31, 2015

Search: [First Drafts of Rock: "Fun, Fun, Fun" by The Beach Boys \(w/Kevin Bacon\)](#)

Alternate video: None

Considerations: None



Ever driven in a car and made up words to a song? It's often not on purpose, is it? But what if it was? What if you intentionally made up new, catchy lyrics to your favourite tunes! This fun, fun, fun video with Jimmy Fallon and Kevin Bacon (who's quite the singer in his own right) has the two of them singing the “first draft” lyrics to the popular Beach Boy song, *Fun, Fun, Fun*.

It's a great way to discover poetry and syllables. This 1964 summer tune had teens singing, “She'll have fun, fun, fun, till her daddy takes the t-bird away.” Counting out the syllables, there are 15 with the last word drifting off into the next verse. Fallon, took these catchy 15 syllables and twisted them into an equally catchy “hungry” tune where he and Bacon sing, “They'll have fun, fun, fun, eating burgers at the hamburger stand...” with the last word drifting off into the next fictitious verse.

There are many other memorable choruses that students can use to practise. Elton John's *Tiny Dancer* lyrics, “Hold me closer tiny dancer. Count the headlights on the highway” could be switched to “Mommy please extend my bedtime. I'm a year and a half older.” Or what about a conversation between a dad and his 16-year-old daughter ordering her to go to bed? The dad pipes in with an Elton John-like melody, “You've studied for four long hours” with the daughter replying, “Dad, please the exam's tomorrow!!!”

Or try Taylor Swift's *Shake it Off*. Students could take the three syllables to the catchy chorus and change it into something on the fly. Instead of “Shake it off, shake it off, woo hoo hoo. Shake it off, shake it off, they could sing, “Study hard study hard, Woo hoo hoo. Get that job, get that job.”

Unlike Fallon's Nonsense Poetry game where ridiculous lines are concocted together, the objective here is to craft words into a catchy tune that will have students ripping out made-up lyrics on their solo walk home from school, or when they're joyously jumping on a bed at a weekend sleepover.