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Reading Games That Beat the Traps

25 interactive games for English I and English II (Grades 9-10)

How wrong answers are built, why they are wrong, and the most-tested reading skills

SAMPLE

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Contents

Every game includes teacher instructions, an example round, printable cards, boards, and recording sheets, and a complete answer key. Passages are original and written at grades 9-10 reading level for English I and English II end of course.

	How Wrong Answers Are Built (Distractors)	
01	Trap Autopsy Lab	4
02	Distractor Knockout Tournament	14
03	Trap Forge	23
04	Wrong Answer Roulette	31
05	Keep or Corrupt?	40
	Paired Passages and Synthesis (Section 9, #4; TEKS 4.H)	
06	Synthesis Sprint	49
07	Two-Text Triage Sort	58
08	Agree, Disagree, or Extend?	66
09	Cross-Text Bridge Builder	74
10	Merger and Match	84
	Prove It With a Paragraph Number (Section 9, #5)	
11	Paragraph Proof Pursuit	93
12	Evidence Coordinate	103
	Whole Text Versus Part (Section 9, #7)	
13	Whole or Fragment? Sift	111
14	Central Idea Showdown	120
15	Summary Cleanup Crew	131
	Craft With a Purpose (Section 9, #8)	
16	Craft Motive Wheel	141
17	Purpose Pitch	155
18	Diction and Syntax Mixer	169
19	Denotation vs Connotation Duel	181
20	Irony and Contrast Case Files	195
	Best Evidence (Section 9, #9)	
21	Best Evidence Brief	209
22	Evidence and Commentary Pairing	215
23	Evidence Lock and Key	222
	Most-Tested TEKS: Argument, Rhetoric, and Word Meaning	
24	Argument Blueprint	228
25	Fallacy Grand Jury	234

SAMPLE

GAME 04

Wrong Answer Cards, Set 1

Cut along the dashed lines. Shuffle the 12 cards face down. Draw one after the spin.

Card R1

Question: According to paragraph 1, how were the first pencils held together?

Wrong answer: "The first pencils were glued into wooden cases."

cut along dashed lines

Card R2

Question: What did rulers use graphite for, according to paragraph 2?

Wrong answer: "They used it to sign treaties between countries."

cut along dashed lines

Card R3

Question: According to paragraph 3, what did Conté mix with graphite?

Wrong answer: "Raw graphite stained fingers."

cut along dashed lines

Card R4

Question: In paragraph 2, what does the word "brittle" most nearly mean?

Wrong answer: "Soft and easy to bend without breaking."

cut along dashed lines

Card R5

Question: Which statement best expresses the main idea of the passage?

Wrong answer: "A French scientist named Nicolas-Jacques Conté invented a way to make pencil cores in 1795."

cut along dashed lines

Card R6

Question: According to paragraph 4, why did one manufacturer choose yellow for pencils?

Wrong answer: "Because yellow was the color least visible on store shelves."

cut along dashed lines

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Game 10: Merger and Match

Match each merged-synthesis claim to the two supporting details, one from each text, that prove it.

Focus	TEKS 4.H (synthesize information from two texts to create new understanding)
Grade Band	9-10 (English I and English II end of course)
Players	Pairs or small groups
Time	20 to 25 minutes
Materials	Paired passages (Text A and Text B), 6 synthesis claim cards, 12 detail cards, matching grid, recording sheet, answer key

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Teacher Instructions

Setup

1. Print the summary sentence cards (pages 5-6), KEEP mat and CUT mat (page 7), and recording sheet (page 8).
2. Cut apart the sentence cards along the dashed lines. You should have 16 cards.
3. Give every student a copy of the passage on page 4, or project it.
4. Place the KEEP mat and CUT mat in the center of the room.
5. Shuffle the sentence cards and place them face down in a stack.
6. Give each team a recording sheet.

How to Play

1. Teams take turns. On a team's turn, the teacher draws the top card and reads it aloud.
2. The team decides: KEEP (this sentence belongs in a correct summary and keeps the meaning and order) or CUT (this is a detail, a repeat, or an off-topic fragment).
3. The team must justify its choice with the passage. For KEEP, name the paragraph that supports the sentence. For CUT, name the label: not in the text, true but not the question, only part of the text, the opposite, wrong meaning.
4. The team places the card on the KEEP mat or the CUT mat.
5. The teacher checks the answer key. Correct choice with a good justification: 2 points. Correct choice with a weak justification: 1 point. Wrong choice: 0 points.
6. Play continues until all 16 cards are sorted or time runs out.

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Scoring

- Correct sort with paragraph proof or a correct label: 2 points.
- Correct sort with no proof: 1 point.
- Bonus: if a team can read the KEEP cards on the mat in order and show they form a complete, logical summary, they earn 3 bonus points at the end of the game.

How to Win

The team with the most points after all cards are sorted wins. If time runs out, the team with the most points wins.

Passage A: The Boat That Would Not Sink

Context cards C1, C2, C7, C8, C9, C13, C16, C18.

The Boat That Would Not Sink

(1) The morning the storm came, our town got exactly what it deserved. I had heard the warning on Tuesday, a low hiss of wind that made the shutters knock like a man asking to be let in. Nobody in my family's house packed. Packing meant admitting that the water might come inside, and the water had never come inside. Not once in forty years.

(2) My grandfather kept a green aluminum boat in the garage behind the riding mower, and he had strapped it to the hook in the ceiling with two lengths of rope. He called it the Titanic, which was a cheerful kind of joke, because the Titanic was famous for sinking and this boat was famous for a dent in its side from a lawn mower. He had a joke for everything. When the county shut off the power, he said the lights had gone to sleep. When the phone line died, he said the house had stopped talking.

(3) By noon the creek behind our street had swallowed the footbridge. By two o'clock the water was over the second step of my grandmother's porch. Then the levee opened, and my grandfather was already in the driveway with a rope in his teeth, hauling that green boat down the lane. He was seventy-nine years old. He was moving faster than anyone I had ever seen move.

(4) We carried groceries across the top of the fence because the gate was under four feet of brown water. We moved Mrs. Lattimore, who was eighty-eight and furious about the whole arrangement, into the high school gym with forty other people and a case of orange juice. Someone set a folding table under a basketball hoop. Someone else started a list. My grandfather wrote on that list in pencil, in handwriting so steady it looked printed: 1) water 2) blankets 3) call my brother. He spelled blankets wrong. Nobody fixed it.

(5) The water crested at 3:40 that afternoon, four inches below the record set in 1983. Four inches. The paper called it a catastrophe avoided by luck and half the town still calls it the near disaster. But I remember those four inches, and I remember my grandfather standing in our kitchen at midnight in rubber boots, telling my grandmother that this town had flooded twice in his life, both times before breakfast, and both times it was somebody else's fault.

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Words: 398. **Words to watch in context:** deserved, knock, swallowed, gym, steady, across, twice, four inches.