

Find the Spy

Speaking game · ages 9 to adult · elementary and up · about 15 minutes

① How to play

1. **Make the slips.** Write the same place on every slip (the beach) and SPY on one. Fold, mix and hand them out. Everyone keeps their slip secret.
2. **Put up the questions.** Write question frames on the board: What do you wear here? What can you hear? Who do you meet here?
3. **Ask and answer.** Students take turns: answer the question, then ask someone else. Not too easy, or the spy learns the place. Not too vague, or you look like the spy.
4. **Vote: 3, 2, 1, point.** After two or three rounds, count down and everyone points at the spy. A caught spy gets one guess at the place. The class wins a point if the spy is caught and guesses wrong.

② Question frames for the board

What do you wear here?

What can you hear?

Who do you meet here?

What do you do here?

What can you buy here?

Do you like it here? Why?

③ Not too easy, not too vague

Too easy

"You swim in the sea here."

Now the spy knows it's the beach.

Good

"Sunglasses, and not many clothes!"

Friends know you know. The spy still guesses.

Too vague

"Clothes. Normal things."

Everyone thinks you're the spy.

④ Tips

Play the first round yourself as one of the players, so the class hears what a good answer sounds like: clear enough for friends, not so clear the spy learns the place.

Big class? Groups of four to six, one set of slips each.

⑤ Easier and harder

Easier: Put pictures on the slips, and leave the question frames and a list of possible places on the board.

Harder: Clean the board so students make their own questions, or play with two spies who don't know each other.

⑥ Ready places

Pages 2 to 4 have these places on slips. Any place works: the beach, a party, a train.

YOUNG LEARNERS · ROOMS IN A HOUSE

kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, garden

OLDER KIDS · PLACES IN TOWN

supermarket, zoo, cinema, hospital

TEENS AND ADULTS · PLACES AND EVENTS

airport, job interview, wedding, gym

Spy slips: Rooms in a house

Young learners. One column is one group: five place slips and one SPY. Fold, mix, hand out.

GROUP A kitchen Keep it secret!	GROUP B bathroom Keep it secret!	GROUP C bedroom Keep it secret!	GROUP D garden Keep it secret!
GROUP A kitchen Keep it secret!	GROUP B bathroom Keep it secret!	GROUP C SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP D garden Keep it secret!
GROUP A kitchen Keep it secret!	GROUP B bathroom Keep it secret!	GROUP C bedroom Keep it secret!	GROUP D garden Keep it secret!
GROUP A SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP B bathroom Keep it secret!	GROUP C bedroom Keep it secret!	GROUP D SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!
GROUP A kitchen Keep it secret!	GROUP B bathroom Keep it secret!	GROUP C bedroom Keep it secret!	GROUP D garden Keep it secret!
GROUP A kitchen Keep it secret!	GROUP B SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP C bedroom Keep it secret!	GROUP D garden Keep it secret!

Spy slips: Places in town

Older kids. One column is one group: five place slips and one SPY. Fold, mix, hand out.

GROUP A supermarket Keep it secret!	GROUP B zoo Keep it secret!	GROUP C cinema Keep it secret!	GROUP D hospital Keep it secret!
GROUP A supermarket Keep it secret!	GROUP B zoo Keep it secret!	GROUP C SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP D hospital Keep it secret!
GROUP A supermarket Keep it secret!	GROUP B zoo Keep it secret!	GROUP C cinema Keep it secret!	GROUP D hospital Keep it secret!
GROUP A SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP B zoo Keep it secret!	GROUP C cinema Keep it secret!	GROUP D SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!
GROUP A supermarket Keep it secret!	GROUP B zoo Keep it secret!	GROUP C cinema Keep it secret!	GROUP D hospital Keep it secret!
GROUP A supermarket Keep it secret!	GROUP B SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP C cinema Keep it secret!	GROUP D hospital Keep it secret!

Spy slips: Places and events

Teens and adults. One column is one group: five place slips and one SPY. Fold, mix, hand out.

GROUP A airport Keep it secret!	GROUP B job interview Keep it secret!	GROUP C wedding Keep it secret!	GROUP D gym Keep it secret!
GROUP A airport Keep it secret!	GROUP B job interview Keep it secret!	GROUP C SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP D gym Keep it secret!
GROUP A airport Keep it secret!	GROUP B job interview Keep it secret!	GROUP C wedding Keep it secret!	GROUP D gym Keep it secret!
GROUP A SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP B job interview Keep it secret!	GROUP C wedding Keep it secret!	GROUP D SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!
GROUP A airport Keep it secret!	GROUP B job interview Keep it secret!	GROUP C wedding Keep it secret!	GROUP D gym Keep it secret!
GROUP A airport Keep it secret!	GROUP B SPY Find the place. Don't get caught!	GROUP C wedding Keep it secret!	GROUP D gym Keep it secret!