

## MY GRANDMOTHER LIKES APPLES, BUT SHE DOESN'T LIKE PEARS – GAME

**Target Audience:** Elem ESD students or Level 2/3 ESL students – Elem to Secondary

**Purpose:** oral language practice; vocabulary review/building; use of “but” in sentences, and practicing contractions

**Requirements:** 2 lists of contrasting nouns – 1 with double letters, 1 without

### **Instructions:**

In this game, one player, already initiated into the rules, challenges a number of uninitiated players to figure out Grandmother’s other likes and dislikes. The challenger simply announces items, always pairing a pro and a con, e.g.

My grandmother likes coffee, but she doesn’t like tea.  
She likes beer, but she doesn’t like wine.  
She likes butter, but not margarine.  
She likes cherries, but not grapes.  
She likes skiing, but not skating.  
She likes letters, but not postcards.  
She likes rolls, but not bread.  
She likes running, but not walking.

When one of the players has a hypothesis, he or she asks a question: “Does she like raisins?” The challenger may answer, “No, but she likes currants.” (Teacher may need to assist with answers.) As soon as a player correctly designates Grandmother’s likes (has 5 consecutive questions that are answered with “yes”), that player joins the challenger in answering the questions and giving the examples. Play continues until all players have discovered the secret to what Grandmother likes.

The game is played orally, but players who are unable to arrive at the solution should be encouraged to keep a written record of Grandmother’s likes and dislikes. (Someone could write lists on a whiteboard for the whole group’s benefit, if students are struggling.)

The lists would look like this:

#### **LIKES**

food  
Russia  
sitting  
seeing  
books  
ballet  
jazz  
tennis

#### **DISLIKES**

drink  
Romania  
standing  
hearing  
magazines  
hip hop  
rock  
golf

baseball  
dessert  
queens

hockey  
soup  
kings

Eventually it becomes apparent that Grandmother likes anything with a double letter in it.

**Other versions** have been created by ingenious players. For example:

Grandmother likes only things without the letter “e” in them. (She’ll ride a pony, but not a horse: she’ll keep a cow, but not cattle, etc.).

Grandmother only likes things spelled with three letters. (She’ll drive a car, but not an automobile; she’ll eat ham, but not beef; she’d rather be fat than thin, etc.).

USE YOUR IMAGINATION TO COME UP WITH NEW VERSIONS, AND HAVE FUN!!

Borrowed with respect from Margie Golick’s book, *Playing With Words*, 1987.  
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