

# The Implementation of Run to the Board Game in Teaching English Vocabulary

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**Abstract.** *In the era of globalization, mastering English is crucial for international communication. Despite English education being present in Indonesia, language skills, particularly vocabulary, still need to improve, hindering students' comprehension. This study employed a qualitative case study approach to investigate the implementation of the "Run to the Board" game as a method to improve English language skills at a junior high school. Participants were Kampus Mengajar batch 4 student teachers. Data collected through observations, interviews, and documentation were analyzed qualitatively. The findings of this study enrich the theoretical understanding of the "Run to the Board" method and provide practical insights for English language educators. The results are expected to inspire teachers to be more creative in boosting students' self-confidence and addressing vocabulary challenges that impede their English proficiency.*

**Keywords** – Run to the Board; game; vocabulary

**Abstract.** *Di era globalisasi, penguasaan bahasa Inggris sangat penting untuk komunikasi internasional. Meskipun ada pendidikan bahasa Inggris di Indonesia, kemampuan bahasa, terutama kosakata, masih lemah, menghambat pemahaman siswa. Memanfaatkan permainan sebagai metode pembelajaran, seperti "Run to the Board," dapat meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggris. Namun, penelitian sebelumnya kurang melakukan eksplorasi kualitatif. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi implementasi metode "Run to the Board" di sebuah sekolah menengah pertama menggunakan pendekatan studi kasus kualitatif. Pesertanya adalah mahasiswa dari Kampus Mengajar angkatan 4. Data yang dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi dianalisis secara kualitatif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan kontribusi secara teoritis dengan memperkaya wawasan tentang metode "Run to the Board" dan secara praktis dengan memberikan gagasan pengembangan bagi pendidik bahasa Inggris. Hasilnya diharapkan dapat memotivasi guru untuk lebih kreatif dalam meningkatkan rasa percaya diri siswa, mengatasi tantangan kosakata yang menghambat penguasaan bahasa Inggris mereka.*

**Kata kunci** - Run to the board; permainan; kosakata

## I. INTRODUCTION

Mastery of English in the current era of globalization has become a necessity for everyone to be able to communicate and interact internationally. English is a tool so that everyone can maintain relations with the international world. In other words, language is a tool for humans to express their thoughts. This is supported by Setyawati [1], which interprets language as a composition of sounds, words, patterns, etc. that humans use to communicate both feelings and thoughts. As a means of international communication, English has an important role in relations with the international world, technological developments, and the era of globalization, which requires everyone to be able to master more than one language, including English [2]. Thus, Indonesian education applies English as a language lesson to support developments in this era of globalization. This is because the role of English plays an important role in developing science, including for Indonesia as a developing country.

English language skills in Indonesia can be said to be weak. English education in Indonesia has been provided from middle school to college level, but in reality, there are still many students who show minimal mastery of vocabulary in English. This can cause students' low ability in subjects related to the four capabilities in English, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Therefore, skills are needed, including vocabulary, to be able to improve English language skills well [3]. Thus, students can adapt to developments in technology and science so that competent educational products can be created in line with international developments. Vocabulary plays an important role in someone being able to master English. Lack of vocabulary mastery can prevent students from understanding the material in English. There are many reasons why students find it difficult to understand English lesson material. The first factor could be that for students, English is not their mother tongue and is only a foreign language [4]. Its position as a foreign language in Indonesia makes it natural for students to find it difficult to learn and understand English at every level of education. The second factor is due to students' limited ability to master English vocabulary. In almost every English lesson, this becomes an obstacle for students in learning and understanding the material being taught. Many students find it difficult to understand the material provided due to limited vocabulary mastery. In learning and teaching activities, using games as a learning method is very useful in helping students improve their English language skills. The nature of developing this game is educational because using games as a method for

learning can help students master English vocabulary easily so that four mastery skills can be achieved, which consist of writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Therefore, students are expected to be more motivated to expand their English vocabulary through learning with game.

Donmus [5] states that the value of educational games has been increasing in language education since they help to make language education entertaining. Rahayu and Riska [6] explain further that games can be a medium that will have many advantages for teachers and students. From the explanations of these two researchers, it can be concluded that games can be a fun teaching medium and can provide benefits for both teachers and students in increasing knowledge and understanding. In theory, Huyen and Nga [7] state games add to vocabulary learning if students have the opportunity in a pleasant environment to learn, practice, and review learning English.

Run to the Board (RTTB) is a game choice that can be used to motivate students to be more enthusiastic about learning and expand their vocabulary. RTTB is an educational game that is usually used in learning English [8]. The game aims to expand students' vocabulary regarding a particular theme and to increase students' curiosity. Determining the theme in the RTTB game depends on the material provided by the teacher, this is important because it is the initial foundation for students so that they can easily follow and understand the material being taught [9]. This game is played by dividing students into four groups. Each group will compete to write as much vocabulary as possible in the columns provided on the whiteboard owned by each group, with a predetermined time limit. In each group, all members must participate in the game and will get at least one opportunity to write vocabulary on the board.

The RTTB game is an active learning method that involves students' physical participation to increase engagement, collaboration, and understanding of the subject matter. In this game, students are divided into teams and allowed to run to the board or whiteboard after receiving certain instructions. Each team is responsible for writing words or information related to the given lesson topic. The process usually involves several steps, such as providing the topic to the students, dividing the whiteboard into two parts (one for each team), giving each team different colored whiteboard pens, and setting certain rules, such as a specific time to write. The "Run to the Board" game brings several learning benefits [10], including:

- **Physical Activity:** Encourages students' physical involvement, which can increase energy and engagement in learning.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Fostering cooperation and teamwork among students in achieving a common goal.
- **Creativity and Quick Thinking:** Stimulates creative thinking and quick thinking skills through the creation of related words.
- **Reinforcement of Material:** Helps strengthen students' understanding of the subject matter by linking information to the words they write.
- **Motivation Through Competition:** Provides an element of competition that can increase students' motivation to actively participate.

The implementation of the RTTB game is to motivate students to be more enthusiastic about learning English. On the other hand, it can increase students' self-confidence because they already have sufficient vocabulary from the game activities, so they can understand the teaching material provided easily. Students' lack of vocabulary is an obstacle to being able to master learning material in English. This also happened in class 8 at SMP 45-3 Kedungpring when the researchers observed the class during *Kampus Mengajar* batch 4 practice. It is still found that they find it difficult to understand the material due to the lack of vocabulary mastery.

One identified shortcoming from three previous research articles on topics related to the RTTB game [11],[12], and [13] is the lack of variation in the research methods used. Although these four studies do not have specific shortcomings, interestingly, none of them applied qualitative research methods. Therefore, the researchers conduct research using qualitative methods, particularly focusing on the RTTB game. Additionally, there has been no research exploring this method with student or prospective teacher subjects. This is relevant because the use of this method in the learning environment of young teachers has not been documented. Since some previous studies focused on effectiveness, this research aims to deepen the understanding of the implementation RTTB game to provide a more holistic insight into its use in the classroom.

The importance of this research lies in its theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, this research is expected to be a valuable contribution to the development of the RTTB implementation, enriching insights into this learning method and opening opportunities for a deeper understanding of its implementation. The practical contribution of this research is crucial as it can provide development ideas for the RTTB game, create a more interactive English language learning environment, and offer practical inspiration for teachers on how to manage English language learning at the junior high school level using the RTTB game. Thus, this research has the potential to provide valuable guidance for English education practitioners in the secondary school environment.

Based on the shortcomings identified in previous research regarding the RTTB game and the significance of conducting this research, the primary objective of this study is to uncover the implementation of the RTTB game in English teaching at SMP 45-3 Kedungpring. This research employs a qualitative approach to delve deeply into how this game is applied and how English student teachers at the school reflect on their learning experience. The research questions arising from these objectives are as follows :

1. How is the RTTB game applied in teaching English of Lower Secondary school students?
2. How does the student teachers reflect on their teaching that uses the RTTB game?

## II. METHOD

This research use a qualitative case study research method. A case study is a research method to acquire as much knowledge as possible about a process, program, event, or activity [14]. A case study is an investigation into a phenomenon directly within its context, without the researchers making any interventions. In this research, the location is SMP Empat Lima 3 Kedungpring, Lamongan. This school is selected because the researchers is participating in the Merdeka Belajar program from the Ministry of Education and Culture, specifically the *Kampus Mengajar* batch 4 program.

This research explored the experiences of *Kampus Mengajar* batch 4 students in implementing the RTTB game. The participants in this study are 2 students from the 5th and 7th semesters of the *Kampus Mengajar* batch 4 program at SMP Empat Lima 3 Kedungpring. The researchers use a qualitative approach with interviews to gather data from *Kampus Mengajar* batch 4 students regarding the implementation of the RTTB game. The researchers conducted observations using an observation sheet containing the steps of the RTTB game from the YouTube video "English for Asia". In this context, the researchers observed whether there were differences in the implementation of the RTTB game between the one presented in the video and the one carried out by 4th-generation *Kampus Mengajar* students at SMP Empat Lima 3 Kedungpring. The researchers conducted interviews with two student teachers *Kampus Mengajar* batch 4 who are currently implementing the RTTB game . In this context, the researchers developed reflective questions to assess the success and sustainability of the implemented games. Interviews were conducted using a semi-formal approach to achieve the goal of obtaining detailed data on the implementation of the RTTB game for 8th grade students in SMP Empat Lima 3 Kedungpring [15].

### Data Collection Tehnique

To collect data in this research, the researchers used several methods, including observation, interviews, and documentation, as tools for collecting information. The steps taken in carrying out this research include several stages. First, this research chose two English language teacher students at SMP Empat Lima 3 Kedungpring as research subjects. Then, the researchers prepared questions for interviews with English teachers and tools for observing classes as part of the research instrument. Furthermore, in the observation process, the researchers paid attention to various activities by English teachers during the learning process, especially when using game-based learning methods.

Observations were carried out during the first week of campus teaching assignments. The implementation took place in the 10th week of the campus teaching assignment, especially in class 8A during the 3rd and 4th lesson hours, each lasting 30 minutes (2 x 30 minutes). After the observation process is complete, the next step is to conduct interviews with the English teacher students who have been observed. This interview was conducted on January 10, 2024.

Researchers then analyzed data obtained from observations, interviews, and documentation to understand the learning process in the classroom better. The findings from the analysis are then explained in the research report. Finally, the researchers concluded the data that had been collected and explained the implications of their findings for the English language learning context at SMP Empat Lima 3 Kedungpring. This information is described in the following table 1:

Table 1. Data collection tehnique

Stage	Description	Time	Purpose
Observation	Observing English teachers during the learning process	First week of <i>Kampus Mengajar</i> bacht 4	Identify teaching methods and interactions in the classroom
Implementation	Using game-based learning methods in class 8A	10th week of <i>Kampus Mengajar</i> bacht 4 (3rd & 4th lesson periods, 2 x 30 minutes)	Assessing the effectiveness of game-based learning methods
Interview	Interviewing the English student teachers	January 10, 2024	Get insights and opinions from student teachers

			regarding the learning games used
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### **Data Analysis Tehnique**

The data analysis in this research follows the general steps in analyzing qualitative data using the approach proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana [16] can be depicted in Appendix 1.

The research process begins by collecting raw data through observation and interviews. The next step is to identify the data that is most relevant to the research question being asked. In this stage, researchers select data that is considered important for further analysis. The data that has been collected is then presented using tables or other visual forms to clarify understanding of the information presented. After the data is presented, the interpretation stage becomes crucial in the research process. The researchers examines the data carefully, trying to understand its context, as well as the meaning it contains. This process allows researchers to uncover findings that emerge from the data.

From the results of the interpretation, the researchers then draws conclusions based on the qualitative data analysis that has been carried out. This conclusion is a summary of the understanding of the data and the results of the interpretation that has been carried out. Finally, the researchers prepares a research report that includes findings, interpretations, and implications of the results of data analysis. This report is the final result of the research process carried out and is a manifestation of the research contribution to the field studied.

## **III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. FINDING**

#### **The implementation of Run to the Board game**

The following is an implementation of the "Run to the Board" game to support the first research question. After observing this game, there are some differences with the implementation of the English for Asia version and Kampus Mengajar batch 4 version. Some steps have slightly different variations. Therefore, the researchers concluded and obtained data results according to appendix 2. After analyzing the above observation results, the researchers can conclude the differences in the implementation of the Run to the Board game between the English for Asia version and the Kampus Mengajar batch 4 version. Regarding the steps of the Run to the Board game in the Kampus Mengajar batch 4 version:

# The implementation of Run to the Board game

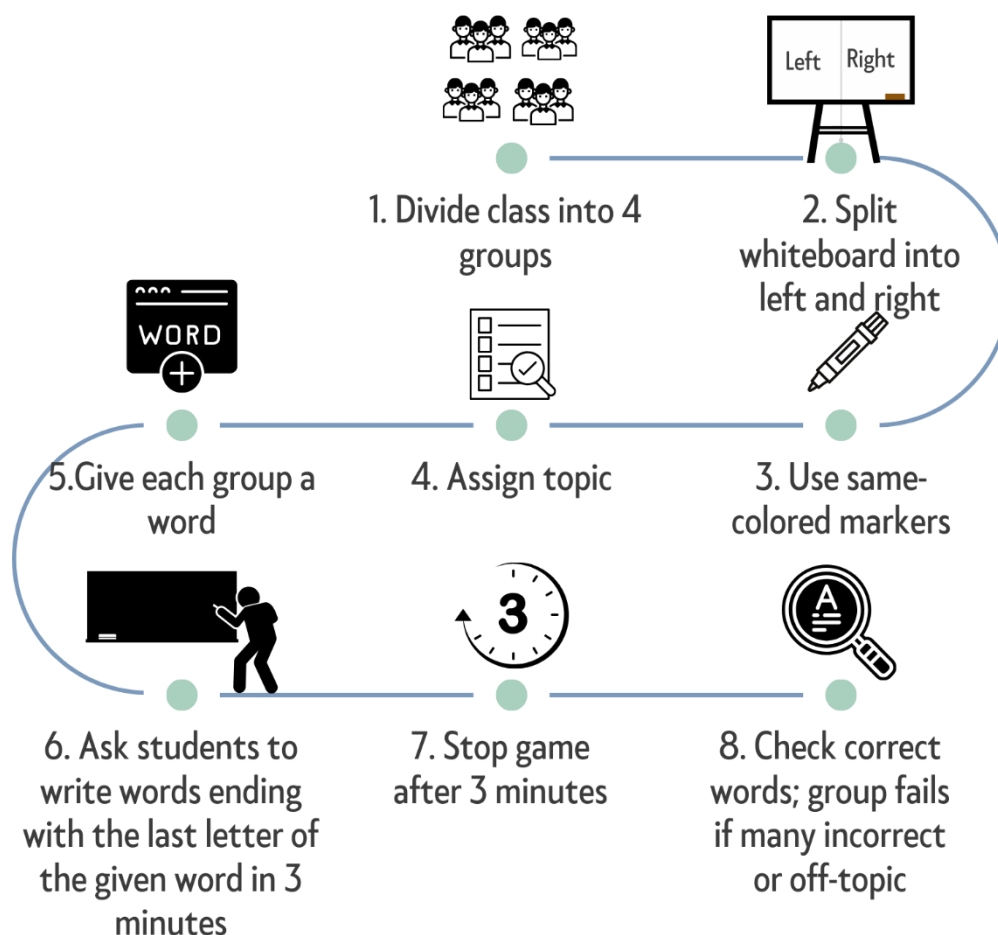


Figure 1. Flowcharts of student teacher's activities in implementing RTTB game

## **Student Teacher's Reflection on the Implementation of Run to the Board Game**

### **a. Teacher problem**

The point of the answers from the two sources is that implementing the RTTB game challenges students to think quickly and precisely and emphasizes the importance of regularity and accuracy in writing English vocabulary. Both highlight the rules and procedures for playing the game, including the time to mention or write vocabulary, the prohibition of repeating words, and the consequences for students who cannot answer quickly.

Quick and accurate thinking is essential! Both student teachers explain the difficulty and rules of the RTTB game, highlighting the importance of being quick and precise in learning new words.

Student Teacher 1: "The challenge for students in implementing the RTTB game is that students are required to think quickly and correctly."

Student Teacher 2: "Students must create vocabulary correctly and quickly to add to the vocabulary written by each team so that the team that writes the correct vocabulary will finish the game."

### **b. Student participation**

Student teacher 1 emphasized the need for all students to participate in the activity, stating that it was necessary for vocabulary learning using RTTB games. They highlight the division into two groups of equal numbers, fostering active participation and enthusiasm. The goal is to determine which group shows the highest level of unity, ultimately mastering the most vocabulary words.

Student teacher 2 echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the need for all students to be involved in the game. They mention preparation for each group to ensure universal participation and promote cohesion and activity in the learning process. The main goal is to engage every student, fostering their enthusiasm and involvement in the learning experience.

All students' participation in RTTB vocabulary games is essential to encourage enthusiasm for learning and group engagement.

Student teacher 1: "We require all students in the class to participate in vocabulary learning using the RTTB game."

Student teacher 2: "This game aims to involve all students and encourage their activity in learning."

### **c. Student problem**

The point from the answers to the two sources is that students face several obstacles in learning English vocabulary using the RTTB game. Some students need help with thinking quickly, remembering, and pronouncing English vocabulary due to a lack of habit of using the language. In addition, some students may be able to pronounce vocabulary but still need help with correct spelling when writing it. This indicates a limited understanding of English vocabulary can hinder participation in RTTB games.

Challenges in vocabulary learning. Both student teachers addressed the difficulties students faced in acquiring English vocabulary through RTTB games, emphasizing the need for vocabulary improvement.

Student Teacher 1: "Some students still have difficulty thinking quickly or have difficulty remembering and pronouncing vocabulary, because they are not used to using English."

Student Teacher 2: "Because students still don't fully understand the large English vocabulary, they have limitations in participating in the RTTB game."

### **d. Overcoming challenges**

The point of the two sources' answers is that through the RTTB game, students can face the challenges of learning English effectively, especially in developing the ability to think quickly, write, and master English vocabulary correctly. Both also emphasized the importance of teamwork in facilitating effective learning.

They were empowering teamwork in learning. The two prospective teachers advocated the effectiveness of the RTTB game in overcoming the challenges of learning English vocabulary through teamwork and quick thinking.

Student Teacher 1: "Students can face learning challenges effectively because this game is played so that students can think quickly and can name and write English vocabulary correctly."

Student Teacher 2: "Students can face the challenges of this RBB model of learning effectively through the teamwork that has been formed so that students can easily write and acquire new vocabulary correctly."

### **e. Student engagement**

The point of the two interviewees' answers is that all students are involved in learning using the RTTB game method, although some students may be slow in combining vocabulary endings. The freshman teacher highlighted that although some students may have difficulty combining vocabulary endings, they remain engaged in learning. Meanwhile, the second student teacher emphasized that the use of games aims to ensure the involvement and activity of all students in the learning process.

Active engagement through games. Both teacher candidates highlighted the importance of involving all students in the RTTB game method, ensuring active participation in learning.

Student Teacher 1: "All students are involved in learning the RTTB game method, although there are some students who are slow in combining vocabulary endings such as Car-Rose-Elephant and so on."

Student Teacher 2: "The use of games also aims to test their level of activeness in the learning process. In this way, it can be ensured that all students are involved and active in this learning activity."

#### **f. Learning objective achievement**

The point from the answers of the two sources is that implementing the RTTB game positively impacts students' ability to improve and pronounce English vocabulary. The freshman teacher noted that not all students were proficient in achieving the learning objectives using the RTTB game. However, the game helped them improve their ability to pronounce vocabulary well. Meanwhile, the second student teacher highlighted the group-based strategy used in the game, which allows students who have limitations in mastering vocabulary to be assisted by more advanced group friends. Students can help and support each other in facing complex vocabulary challenges through group collaboration.

Collaborative learning in action. Both student teachers highlight the positive impact of the RTTB game on vocabulary improvement, emphasizing peer support and cooperation in facing challenges.

Student teacher 1: "Implementing the game has an impact on students' ability to improve and pronounce vocabulary well."

Student teacher 2: "Through collaboration in groups, students have the opportunity to help and support each other in facing difficult vocabulary challenges."

## **B. DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of previous research, using the run-to-board game can motivate students to increase their vocabulary. Run to the board game is interesting because you can learn through play. This is a great way to see how well students remember words learned in previous lessons. Previous researchers emphasized that the RTTB game is essential for teaching vocabulary, especially for students who have never studied vocabulary and want to learn it. The game "Run to the Board" has emerged as an innovative and exciting method in vocabulary teaching. This discussion explores the effectiveness, challenges, and pedagogical implications of integrating this dynamic activity into the language classroom. By examining the theoretical framework and practical applications, researchers sought to understand how these games can improve students' vocabulary acquisition and overall language skills. First, it is essential to consider the basic principles that make RTTB game an effective educational tool. Rooted in active learning theory, these games encourage physical movement, quick thinking, and teamwork, which increase cognitive engagement and retention. Research by Hornby [17] in [18] shows that learning by doing significantly improves students' ability to understand and remember new words.

Additionally, these games create a lively and competitive environment that motivates students to participate actively. According to Suryani and Rossa, interactive activities like this can break up the boredom of traditional learning methods, making the classroom experience more fun and stimulating. This aligns with Megawati's [19] observation that students often become disinterested when undergoing repeated reading and practice exercises. Furthermore, RTTB game in vocabulary teaching aligns with the Think-Talk-Write (TTW) strategy. As has been highlighted by Sari [20] and Sa'diyah et al. [21], TTW encourages critical thinking, verbal expression, and written communication, all of which are important for comprehensive language learning. By integrating these steps into the game, students learn new words and practice using them in context, strengthening their understanding and use.

Researchers used interviews to determine student teachers' reflections regarding implementing the RTTB game. The results of interviews with student teachers show several aspects. Implementing RTTB games in vocabulary teaching presents unique challenges for students and teachers. As expressed by two student teachers, the main difficulty lies in quick and precise thinking demands. RTTB games require students to quickly generate and write English vocabulary accurately, following strict rules such as time limits, prohibitions on repeating words, and immediate punishment for wrong or slow answers. This setting emphasizes the need for regular practice and precision in vocabulary mastery [17]. These games force students to increase the speed and accuracy of their cognitive processing, which is important for language learning.

Active participation of all students is very important in RTTB games. Student teachers demonstrate the importance of involving each student in activities to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment. By dividing the class into two equal groups, this game encourages a sense of community and a collective effort to master vocabulary. This group dynamic encourages enthusiasm and ensures that each student actively contributes to the learning process. The involvement of all students helps build a collaborative classroom atmosphere where learning is a shared responsibility [22]. Despite its benefits, students face significant challenges when using RTTB games to learn

vocabulary. Some students struggle with the quick thinking required to remember and pronounce English words correctly, mainly due to a lack of regular exposure to the language. Additionally, although some may be able to pronounce vocabulary, they often struggle with spelling accuracy. This problem highlights limited vocabulary knowledge, which hinders active participation in RTTB games. Student teachers emphasized the need for continued vocabulary improvement to overcome this barrier [23].

RTTB games, although challenging, offer an effective solution to enhance vocabulary learning. This game format encourages quick thinking and accurate writing, which are important skills for language acquisition. Additionally, the emphasis on teamwork in the game facilitates effective learning. Through collaborative efforts, students can support each other, making it easier to overcome complex vocabulary. This collaborative approach helps learn new words and builds a supportive learning community [24]. Maintaining student engagement is critical to the success of the RTTB game. Although some students may find it challenging to combine vocabulary endings quickly, this game ensures that all students remain actively engaged. This active participation is essential for continued engagement in the learning process. Using games as a teaching method tests and increases student activity levels, ensuring that each student is engaged and motivated to learn [25]. RTTB games significantly impact students' ability to improve and pronounce English vocabulary. Although not all students may achieve the learning objectives with the same proficiency, this game helps improve their pronunciation skills. The group-based strategy of the RTTB game allows students to collaborate, with more advanced students helping those struggling. This peer support system creates an environment where students can collectively overcome vocabulary challenges, improving their language skills [26].

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The game "Run to the Board" (RTTB) is compelling and exciting for students' vocabulary mastery. This game uses active learning principles to increase cognitive engagement and retention through physical movement, quick thinking, and teamwork. Research shows that learning by doing actions significantly improves students' ability to understand and remember new vocabulary. Additionally, the competitive and lively nature of RTTB motivates students, breaks the monotony of traditional methods, and makes learning more fun. RTTB games, with their innovative and dynamic approach, offer significant pedagogical benefits and can be a valuable tool in language teaching strategies. However, implementing RTTB games is not without challenges. The students' teachers noted that the game demands fast and accurate cognitive processing, which can be difficult for students who are less familiar with the English language or struggle with spelling accuracy. Despite these challenges, the game's emphasis on teamwork and active participation helps create a supportive and collaborative classroom environment. This approach not only helps overcome vocabulary challenges but also fosters a sense of community and collective responsibility for learning. Overall, although RTTB games present certain difficulties, their benefits in promoting vocabulary acquisition, increasing engagement, and building a supportive learning community are enormous. The positive impacts observed and reported by student teachers confirm the potential of RTTB games as an innovative and effective method for teaching vocabulary.



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**Conflict of Interest Statement:**

*The author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.*