

# Squid Game: The Challenge



🔦 CI Level

🔦 Duration: 1 h

🔦 Group lesson

🔦 Age: adults

🔦 Lesson goals

Can use a variety of strategies to achieve comprehension, including using contextual clues;

Can make challenging content more accessible by explaining difficult aspects more explicitly and adding helpful detail;

Can speculate or hypothesise, comparing and evaluating alternative proposals and arguments.

🔦 Teacher tip

This lesson is perfect for those who have seen the “Squid Game” series. It can still be used with those who haven’t but it might slightly affect the level of student engagement.

## 1

### Warm-up

**Exercise 1. Skim these 4 opinions and choose the one you agree with the most. Explain why.**



Adam

"Honestly, I'm all about the drama when it comes to reality shows. There's nothing like watching people get into **heated arguments** and petty fights on TV - it's pure entertainment for me! While I don't think I'd ever participate in one myself, I can't deny that shows like 'The Real Housewives' are incredibly amusing."



Sam

"For me, **the appeal of** reality shows lies in watching genuine talent being showcased. Shows like 'So You Think You Can Dance' or 'American Idol' really bring out the best in contestants, and it's amazing to see their hard work pay off. As much as I admire them though, I don't think I have what it takes to participate. The **public scrutiny** can be brutal!"



Luke

"When it comes to reality shows, I'm still **on the fence about** how I feel. Some can be pretty interesting while others are just downright dumb. Admittedly, I've watched **my fair share** of 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians', but I'm not quite sure if I would want to be a part of one. It could be fun to try, but the thought of becoming too famous is a little daunting."



Brianna

"To be honest with you, I can't stand reality TV. It's all fake anyway - the so-called **unscripted moments** are heavily edited to make things more dramatic. People make fools of themselves just for a shot at fame, and it makes me sick. It's definitely not worth it, even for the prize money."

**Exercise 2. Look at the vocabulary in bold. Explain its meaning in your own words.**

## Reading

### Exercise 3. Have you watched or heard of the South Korean drama “Squid Game”? Did you like it?

Read this article about a spin-off reality show and answer the following questions:

1. How does Squid Game: The Challenge differ from the original Netflix series?
2. Why won't fans be able to binge-watch Squid Game: The Challenge?



Squid Game has been the most watched and talked about TV Series on Netflix, taking the world by storm with its Season 1 debut in 2021. The South Korean drama series has flipped the script, dropping Squid Game: The Challenge, a competition series \_\_\_\_\_ (1) on November 22.

“4.56 million dollars. People do a whole lot worse for a whole lot less,” one contestant stated.

The upcoming reality game series \_\_\_\_\_ (2) 456 contestants to compete for a \_\_\_\_\_ (3) prize of 4.56 million dollars. Squid Game: The Challenge gives every contestant a chance to compete and survive, opposite from the original Netflix series that eliminated players with a sniper after losing the game.

Fans of the South Korean Drama won't be able to binge-watch the new series \_\_\_\_\_ (4), as reports show that Netflix is reconsidering its strategy. According to Deadline, Netflix is holding some episodes back to \_\_\_\_\_ (5) around the \_\_\_\_\_ (6) series.

The 10-episode reality series features games designed for children. Tug of war and red light/green light are just a few games on the list of challenges contestants will compete in.

Fans can expect a few returning actors, like winner Lee Jung-Jae, who plays the \_\_\_\_\_ (7) role of Seong Gi-hun in Season 1. Director and creator of Squid Game, Hwang Dong-hyuk, mentions he will potentially bring back some dead characters in Season 2.

The Emmy award-winning director spoke to Reuters and stated, “I want to revive Ji-young, but her best friend Sae-byeok also died, so I'm thinking what to do.” He added, “So many characters died, especially beloved ones died. I'm sorry I killed them so easily; I didn't know this was coming.”

### Exercise 4. Fill in the gaps in the text above with the following vocabulary. Don't forget to put it in the right form if needed.

spin-off

set to premiere

grand

protagonist

in one sitting

to build buzz

to pit together



Explain the meaning of each word / phrase above in your own words.

**Exercise 5. With your partner, reconstruct this dialogue about the reality show by putting the sentences below in the right gaps.**

R Hey, have you heard about Squid Game's new spin-off series set to premiere soon?

S Yes, I did. It's called Squid Game: The Challenge, right? \_\_\_\_\_ (1).

R Yeah, that's true. Instead of eliminating players with a sniper after losing the game, contestants will compete in challenges designed for children.

S Hmm...sounds interesting. Do you think it'll be as popular as the first season?

R Definitely. \_\_\_\_\_ (2).

S Speaking of which, do you know why Netflix is holding back some episodes?

R Apparently, \_\_\_\_\_ (3), so they're not releasing all 10 episodes at once.

S Ah, that makes sense. And Lee Jung-Jae, the protagonist, will be starring again, right?

R Yes! He was amazing in Season 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (4).

S Really? That would be great. Who do you think he should revive?

R Hmm...I'm not sure. Maybe Ji-young? She was such a tragic character.

S Yeah, that's true. But what about Sae-byeok? Her death hit me hard too.

R Oh, yeah. \_\_\_\_\_ (5). Well, we'll just have to wait and see who makes a comeback.

- A both of their deaths were heartbreaking
- B judging by the hype around it, people seem really excited to watch it
- C they want to build buzz around the spin-off series
- D but it's not going to be like the original show
- E plus, the creator hinted that he might bring back some dead characters in Season 2

## Speaking

**Exercise 6. Read these 4 reality show descriptions and with your partner construct a dialogue about one of them according to the template below. Note that each gap has to be filled.**

- A: Hey, have you heard about \_\_\_\_\_?
- B: Yes, I did. \_\_\_\_\_, right? \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: Yeah, that's true. Instead of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B: Hmm...sounds interesting. Do you think \_\_\_\_\_?
- A: Definitely. Judging by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- B: Speaking of which, \_\_\_\_\_?
- A: Apparently, \_\_\_\_\_.
- B: Ah, that makes sense. \_\_\_\_\_, right?
- A: Yes! \_\_\_\_\_.
- B: Really? \_\_\_\_\_?
- A: Hmm...I'm not sure. \_\_\_\_\_.
- B: eah, that's true. \_\_\_\_\_.
- A: Oh, yeah. \_\_\_\_\_.

### Big Brother

Contestants live together in a house under constant surveillance and compete in challenges to win power and safety from eviction. They must form alliances and manipulate each other to avoid being voted out by their fellow housemates.

### Survivor

A group of strangers are stranded on a deserted island and must fend for themselves while competing in challenges to win rewards and immunity from elimination. They must form alliances and strategize to vote out their fellow contestants until only one remains and is crowned the ultimate survivor.

### Shark Tank

Aspiring entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to a panel of wealthy investors, hoping to secure funding for their ventures. The sharks grill them with tough questions and negotiate for equity in their companies.

### The Amazing Race

sends teams of two on a global scavenger hunt, racing against other teams to complete challenges and reach the finish line first. The race tests not only their physical abilities but also their relationships with each other.



## Correct answers

### Exercise 1.

Made in the “Four Opinions” tool.

### Exercise 2.

**to be on the fence about** - to be undecided or uncertain about a particular issue or decision

**heated arguments** - intense and passionate disagreements between two or more people

**unscripted moments** - spontaneous or unplanned events or situations that occur without prior preparation or rehearsal

**public scrutiny** - examination or observation by the general public, often involving criticism or judgment

**my fair share of** - an amount of something that is considered reasonable or expected for a person to experience

**the appeal of** - the attractiveness or desirability of something to someone

#### Teacher tip

At this level, it is critically important to develop your students' mediation skills. This task helps to teach your students to be able to make complex, challenging content more accessible to their peers by explaining difficult aspects more explicitly and adding helpful detail.

### Exercise 3.

Created in the “Open Questions” tool.

1. Squid Game: The Challenge is a reality game series that pits together 456 contestants to compete for a grand prize of 4.56 million dollars, while the original Netflix series eliminated players with a sniper after losing the game.
2. Netflix is holding some episodes back to build buzz around the spin-off series.

### Exercise 4.

Created in the “Fill in the Gap” tool.

1. set to premiere
2. pits together
3. grand
4. in one sitting
5. build buzz
6. spin-off
7. protagonist

**to pit together** - to place two people or things against each other in competition or conflict

**grand** - impressive and magnificent in appearance, size, or style

**set to premiere** - scheduled to be shown for the first time, usually in a theater or on television

**in one sitting** - doing something continuously without taking a break or stopping in between

**protagonist** - the main character in a story who drives the plot forward and faces challenges or conflicts

**spin-off** - a new TV show, movie, book, or product that is based on an existing one but focuses on different characters or storylines

**to build buzz** - to create excitement or interest around a product, event, or idea through marketing or promotion

### Exercise 5.

Created in the “Create a Dialogue” tool.

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. E
5. A