



Tic-Tac-Toe on the Move:

The Long and Short 'i' Game!

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Objective

To raise awareness of the difference between the sounds /ɪ/ and /i:/ through fun, active, and multisensory minimal pair practice.



Materials

- **9 flashcards** with the following words:
beans – bins – peaches – pitches – team – tin – sheep – ship – sit – seat
 - **A large Tic-Tac-Toe mat** (or 3×3 grid made with tape on the floor)
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Sentences to Read Aloud

/i:/ sound

/ɪ/ sound

Here are **beans**

Here are **bins**

The **peaches** are
amazing

The **pitches** are
amazing

The **team** is new

The **tin** is new

The **sheep** is
white

The **ship** is
white

Your **seat** is here

You can **sit** here

Procedure

1. **Divide** the class into two teams.
 2. **Arrange** the nine flashcards on the Tic-Tac-Toe mat to form a large grid.
 3. The teacher **reads aloud** a sentence containing one of the target sounds.
 4. One student from each team **listens carefully** and **jumps onto** the correct square — the picture that matches what they heard.
 5. The first team to get **three correct squares in a row** (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) **wins!** 🏆
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Tips

- Vary the **speed**, **intonation**, or **volume** of your voice to keep learners alert.
- Encourage students to **repeat the words** after each round to reinforce pronunciation.
- If you have limited space, play the game **outdoors or in a larger area**.
- This multisensory activity helps **maintain engagement** and is especially beneficial for **students with ADHD or other neurodiverse learning profiles**.