

# Talkopoly for communicating collaboratively

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## Abstract

Talkopoly, a communication game which appears in Talk a Lot (Martin, 2003) is an adaptation of the board game Monopoly, with English practice questions instead of places, properties, and streets. Simple variety and range of questions on the game board(s) make it ideal for warm-ups, communication practice, and lesson reviews. The game can be modified to help reinforce recently learned grammar and vocabulary in a focused, collaborative, and enjoyable way.

## 1. Introduction

The freshmen/1<sup>st</sup> year university students in English communication classes come with a lot of hesitation, nervousness, and shyness. Three talkopoly game boards were designed to ‘break the ice’ by sharing their responses to questions about their everyday lives, interests, likes/dislikes, and other prompts such as naming, counting, guessing etc. etc. For the students, the goal of the game is to not only ‘get to know each other’ but also continue to get to know each other better over the course of a term/semester.

## 2. Methodology

### (Preparation)

Step 1: Prepare and print talkopoly game boards on A3 sheets of paper. See Appendix.

Step 2: Divide the class into small groups of 4 each, preferably mixed with two females and two males, to get the best out of this game.

Step 3: Each group gets one talkopoly game board with dice. In a class of six groups, every two groups will have a different game board from the others.

Step 4: Explain the students rules of the game, reward points and penalty scores.

Step 5: In a 90-minute class, the game is played over three rounds. Each round lasts 25minutes. After every round the groups exchange/switch their game boards with each other. At the end of the third round, each group would have played three game boards, each with a different set of questions/prompts.

### (Procedure)

1. Work in a group of three or four. Make a marker and put each marker on “START” before the game begins. Markers can be small squares, or bits of paper with the students’ initials on them, different coins for each student, various pencil tops that students have, etc. The only important thing

is that each student in the group has a unique marker for the game.

2. Each player in the group starts with 100 points.
3. To move around the board, students roll a die and move the number rolled.
4. When a player lands on a question square, follow the instructions. The player wins the points stated on the square—but only after you have completed the activity!
5. Write down how many points each player has after each turn.
6. Players can land on the same square more than once and win points again, but they must give a different answer from before.
7. If a player lands on “Oh My Gosh!” he or she must pay the stated points to the bank. If a player lands on “Lucky You!” he or she wins all the points currently in the bank.
8. Each time players pass “GO,” they win 25 points.
9. If a player takes longer than thirty seconds before he or she starts to answer, the player LOSES the number of points on that question square!

The game continues until one player reaches 1,000 points. The other players can keep going until they reach 1,000 points as well if time allows.

### **3. Results**

Students completed a 10-minute end-of-class feedback to report their impressions of the game activity comments

### **4. Conclusion and Recommendations**



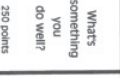
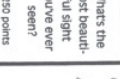

This simple and fun game is designed to help students go over what they have been learning. It is an interesting way for them to practice grammar and vocabulary while communicating in English. There is a lot of scope for peer-support to modify the game, the content, and the process. The content generated provides a great way for the teacher to monitor students’ language needs.

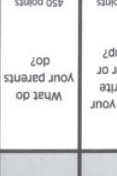
### **5. References**


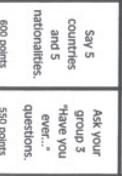
Martin, D. (2003). *Talk a lot (2nd ed.)*. Okegawa, Saitama, Japan: EFL Press.

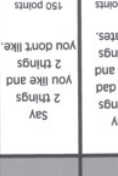

### **6. Appendix**

Talkopoly Game Boards are attached.

 <p><b>LUCKY YOU!</b> You win all the points in the...</p>				What's something you do not do well? 200 points
 <p><b>PAY</b> to the...</p>				What's the most beautiful sight you've ever seen? 250 points
 <p>What's something you do well?</p>				250 points
 <p>What's something you do well?</p>				100 points
 <p><b>OH MY GOSH!</b> to the...</p>				What's your blood type? 200 points
Do you work? 200 points				What makes you angry? 150 points
Do you smoke? 150 points				What are your interests? 350 points
Where were you born? 400 points				Which sport do you like the most? 400 points

 <p><b>OH MY GOSH!</b> to the...</p>				What's an embarrassing experience you've had? 550 points
What's a funny experience you once had? 550 points				What's your most prized possession? 600 points
What's a place you want to visit someday? 600 points				Do you have a car? 50 points
Who's your hero? 50 points				Where do you live? 100 points
Do you live alone? 100 points				Do you smoke? 150 points

 <p><b>GO</b> AS YOU PASS</p>				Say what you're going to do tonight, tomorrow, and next weekend. 600 points
Say 5 countries and 5 nationalities. 600 points				Say the past tense forms: drive, eat, fly, go, play, see, sleep. 550 points
Ask your group 5 "Have you ever..." questions. 550 points				Say what you were doing yesterday at these times: 6:00, 8:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00. 500 points
 <p><b>OH MY GOSH!</b> to the...</p>				Say each time 2 different ways: 3:15, 5:45, 6:55, 7:30. 500 points
Count aloud from 11 to 90. 450 points				Say the comparative forms: cool, quiet, good, cheap, expensive. 450 points

 <p><b>OH MY GOSH!</b> to the...</p>				Say 2 things you can do, 2 things you can't do. 250 points
Think of 4 animals and give hints to make your group guess. 250 points				Think of 4 foods and give hints to make your group guess. 300 points
 <p><b>PAY</b> to the...</p>				Ask your group 3 questions about their family. 350 points
Talk about what you did last weekend for 1 minute. 350 points				Say the past tense forms: get up, go, buy, eat, take, read. 400 points
Ask your group 3 questions about their father's job. 400 points				About sports, carrot, butter, milk, he hates, you don't like. 150 points

100 points	Talk about yourself for 1 minute.	100 points	Say 3 words you learned from Talk a Lot.	100 points	Invite a group member to go out sometime.	50 points	What is the thing you liked best about Talk a Lot?	50 points	
200 points	What are 3 different things you can say when you first meet someone?	200 points	Say these prices: \$875 health problems. \$1,530 for 1 minute.	150 points	Talk about a sport for 1 minute.	150 points		150 points	
250 points	Talk about the last time you were sick for 2 minutes.	250 points	Tell your group 3 things you have and haven't done before.	100 points	Talk about your favorite movie for 2 minutes.	300 points			
300 points	LUCKY YOU! You win all the points in the...	350 points	Ask your group 4 "Have you ever..." questions.	350 points	Talk about a part-time job you've had before for 2 minutes.	350 points			
400 points	Tell your group 5 adjectives used for personality.	400 points	Think of 5 foods and give hints to make your group guess.	400 points	Think of 5 jobs and give hints to make your group guess.	450 points	Give advice to a group member for a problem s/he has.	500 points	Talk about what you did last night for 3 minutes.
550 points	Tell your group about an interesting experience you've had.	550 points	Compare 2 persons you know well for 2 minutes.	600 points	Give directions to your house.	600 points	Explain carefully how to make a dish.	600 points	WIN 200 POINTS AS YOU PASS