



By Tom Dykes (C) 2015

**Just-A-Minute** invites the student speaker to talk on a given topic for sixty seconds or 'Just-A-Minute,'without hesitation, repetition, or deviation. Two teams of four will compete in a challenging game that calls for strong speaking and listening skills.

#### Materials

The materials required for Just-A-Minute are simply a stopwatch and two sets of four buzzers. A student host conducts the game and a teacher may act as the final judge should any disputes occur.

#### Skills

There are two important skills required over and above knowledge of subject and they are speaking skills and listening skills. The speaker must be clear, confident, and able to speak without hesitation or deviation from topic. Opposing team members must listen carefully in order to determine if any of those three rules are broken.

#### The Game and Rules

To start the game, the host will call a letter from the ABC's of The Battle of the Atlantic The first team to hit the buzzer gets the opportunity to choose a member to say the rhyme couplet. If correct, that individual will have Just-A-Minute to speak on that aspect of The Battle of the Atlantic. For example, if the letter 'D' is called and the rhyme is correctly identified, "D is for DESTROYER, the convoys ears and eyes." that team member will be given Just-A-Minute to speak on that topic, without hesitation, deviation, or repetition. The focus is open: where built, RCN numbers, role, names, actions, etc.

The opposing team members must listen carefully in case any of those three rules are broken. If they feel that the speaker has broken a rule they may buzz and challenge. The clock is stopped. If the host accepts the challenge, the challenging team gets one point and takes over the remaining time on the clock.

The new speaker will continue with the topic but cannot repeat what the other team's speaker has said. The opposing team must now listen carefully to make sure that the rules are followed.

At any time, when a team has the floor, the speaker may 'tag' a team member to take over. When a tag is made, the clock is stopped in order that the new speaker may rise and it restarted upon the direction of the host.

#### Scoring

It is suggested that two students act as score keeper/time keeper.

1 point for every 10 seconds a team member speaks.

1 point for a correct challenge.

5 points to the team holding the floor at the end of the 60 seconds.

A team that speaks for Just-A-Minute without being challenged will receive a total of 11 points.

As a Knockout competition with 6 -8 teams per class, Just-A-Minute provides an excellent academic exercise. The game also offers a grade or school challenge.





