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Billionaire Trump Cards — Teacher's Notes

Level: A2-B2 (1:1s or groups).
Focus: Speaking about wealth, using high numbers, comparatives & superlatives.
Materials: Game cards.
Estimated time: 30 minutes.

Background: On 10th March 2010, Forbes published its annual list of billionaires. Mexican telecom giant Carlos Slim topped the list – he became the first non-American to do so since 1994.
This game looks at the 30 richest people in the world, how they made their fortunes and their different backgrounds.

Suggested procedure

1. Tell the Ss. that each card in the pack gives information about one of the world's 30 richest billionaires. Explain the suggested scoring system.*

2. Ideally there should be at least two players, although for 1:1s it is also possible to play the game with the teacher. There are 30 cards. Deal the cards equally between the players.

3. The starting player (normally the player sitting on the dealer's left) takes a card from the top of his/her pile, chooses a category and reads out the value to the other player(s). These players then read out the values of the same category from their first cards. The categories are listed below with a suggested scoring system.*

4. The best value wins the *round*.** The winner takes the card and places it at the bottom of his or her pile. The same player then draws a new top card, and chooses the category for the next round.
– In the event of a draw, the cards are placed together in a separate pile and the player who started the last round draws the next top card and chooses a category. The winner of this round wins all of the cards in the pile as well as the top card from the other player(s).

5. Players are eliminated when they run out of cards. The winner is the player who eventually obtains the whole pack.

Ideas for further study

• Ss. discuss the fairness/reality of the suggested scoring system. If they believe it to be unrealistic they can try to come up with a new one.

This game is based on Waddingtons' popular card game Top Trumps.

*Suggested scoring system

The below scoring is based partly on numerical values and partly on how difficult it is to make a billion!

Net Worth:	The highest value wins.
Fortune:	*Self Made* beats *Inherited and Growing* beats *Inherited.* It is harder to make a billion than it is to inherit it.
Source:	This category has been added for interest only. Although share value may be possible for individual companies, the source can be difficult to compare.
Age:	The youngest age wins. This suggests that the younger a self-made billionaire is, the less time he/she will have had to make their fortune.
Country Of Citizenship:	The lowest GDP wins. This suggests that it is more difficult to make a fortune in a country with a low GDP. The given GDP per capita is Purchasing power parity (PPP).
Residence:	The highest population number wins. This suggests that the more people in a place, the easier it will be to do business there.
Education:	*NA** beats *High School, Drop Out* beats *Drop Out* beats *Associate in Arts / Science* beats *BA / Science* beats *MSc and MA* beats *Doctor* This suggests that it is more difficult to make a fortune with no education. * The Kwok Family cannot be compared here. They are a group and not one individual.
Marital Status:	*Married* and *Widowed* beats *Divorced.* The highest number of children wins.

** Although Carlos Slim is the richest of all the billionaires, it is possible for Azim Premji (30th richest) to beat him using the above suggested system – Premji (aged 64) is six years younger than Slim (70).