

Activity Type

Grammar Game: writing sentences from prompts (pair work)

Focus

Past perfect

Giving explanations

Aim

To write realistic and imaginative explanations for situations using the past perfect tense.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this past perfect game, students write realistic and imaginative explanations for situations.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by writing the first sentence from the worksheet on the board, i.e. 'I walked into class, but I didn't recognize anyone'.

Ask the students for a realistic explanation in the past perfect as to why you didn't recognize anyone, e.g. 'You had walked into the wrong class'.

Then, ask the students for a more imaginative explanation – one that might come from a story or film, e.g. 'You had lost your memory'.

Tell the students that they are going to use the past perfect to come up with explanations for similar situations.

Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a copy of the worksheet.

Explain that the students must write two explanations for each situation – a realistic explanation (Fact) and an imaginative explanation (Fiction).

When everyone has finished writing, tell the class that they are going to vote for the most realistic and imaginative explanations.

Read out the first situation on the worksheet.

Each pair then reads their 'Fact' explanation to the class in turn.

Ask the students to correct any mistakes they hear.

Take a class vote for the most realistic explanation and award one point to the winning pair.

Continue with the 'Fiction' explanation and have the class vote for the most imaginative one.

After that, move on to the second situation and so on.

The pair with the highest number of points at the end of the game is the winner.

1. I walked into class, but I didn't recognize anyone.

Fact:

Fiction:

2. I took all the money out of my bank account and gave it to charity.

Fact:

Fiction:

3. I tried to unlock my front door, but the door wouldn't open.

Fact:

Fiction:

4. I walked down the street with a crowd of people following me.

Fact:

Fiction:

5. I arrived home completely wet on a sunny day.

Fact:

Fiction:

6. I drove to the shops and the roads were completely empty.

Fact:

Fiction:

7. I went to the beach, but I couldn't go swimming in the sea.

Fact:

Fiction:

8. I came back from my holiday with a broken leg.

Fact:

Fiction:

9. I tried to switch on my TV, but nothing happened.

Fact:

Fiction:

10. I woke up at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Fact:

Fiction:

11. I received an email from Katy Perry.

Fact:

Fiction:

12. I rode a horse to school.

Fact:

Fiction: