

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: sentence completion, guessing, asking and answering questions from prompts (pair work)

Focus

Present perfect vs. past simple

Aim

To practice forming and answering questions in the present perfect and past simple tense.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This present perfect vs. past simple game helps students practice forming and answering questions in the present perfect and past simple tense.

Procedure

Divide the students into two equal groups (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Students then complete questions on the worksheet with verbs in brackets in the present perfect or past simple.

When the students have finished, check the questions with each group.

Answer key

Student A

1. did you have
2. have you spoken
3. have you visited
4. Did you eat
5. have you had
6. was
7. did you eat
8. have you lived
9. was
10. Have you ever touched
11. have you sent
12. did you spend
13. Have you ever caught
14. did you get

Student B

1. did you leave
2. Did you go
3. have you laughed
4. did you go
5. have you had
6. Have you ever eaten
7. have you been
8. did you spend
9. was
10. you have ever been
11. Did you eat
12. have you read
13. Have you ever broken
14. did you make

Next, students pair up with someone from the other group.

Working alone, students predict what their partner's answers will be to the questions and write their guesses in the second column.

After that, students take it in turns to ask the questions to their partner to see if their guesses are right or wrong.

For each correct guess, students put a tick in the third column.

Remind the students to answer their partner's questions in the same tense in which it was asked and encourage them to give as much information as possible.

Finally, students add up their ticks. The student with the most correct guesses wins the game.

Student A

A. Complete the questions with the verbs in brackets in the present perfect or past simple tense.

B. Guess your partner's answers to the questions. Write your answers in the second column.

Questions	My guesses	✓
1. What time (have) dinner last night?		
2. How long (speak) English?		
3. How many countries (visit) in your life?		
4. (eat) any fruit yesterday?		
5. How long (have) your mobile phone?		
6. Who (be) the last person you called?		
7. What (eat) for breakfast today?		
8. How long (live) at your current address?		
9. What (be) the last thing you bought?		
10. (ever / touch) a snake?		
11. How many messages (send) so far today?		
12. How long (spend) studying yesterday?		
13. (ever / catch) a fish?		
14. How (get) to school today?		
	Total:	

C. Now, ask your partner the questions and give yourself a tick for each answer you guessed correctly. The student with the most correct guesses wins.

Student B

A. Complete the questions with the verbs in brackets in the present perfect or past simple tense.

B. Guess your partner's answers to the questions. Write your answers in the second column.

Questions	My guesses	✓
1. What time (leave) home today?		
2. (go) shopping yesterday?		
3. How many times (laugh) today?		
4. Where (go) for your last holiday?		
5. How long (have) your phone?		
6. (ever / eat) snails?		
7. How many times (be) in love?		
8. How much money (spend) yesterday?		
9. What (be) the last game you played?		
10. What is the coldest place (ever / be) to?		
11. (eat) any chocolate yesterday?		
12. How many books (read) this month?		
13. (ever / break) a promise?		
14. How many calls (make) yesterday?		
	Total:	

C. Now, ask your partner the questions and give yourself a tick for each answer you guessed correctly. The student with the most correct guesses wins.