

Activity Type

Grammar Game:
sentence building (group
work)

Focus

True affirmative and
negative statements with
the verb *to be*

Subject-verb agreement

Parts of speech

Aim

To make true affirmative
and negative statements
with the verb *to be*.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
cards for each group
of three and cut as
indicated.

Level

Beginner (A1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

Here is a verb *to be* game for beginners to help them practice forming affirmative and negative sentences with the present simple. This activity also helps students understand subject-verb agreement and how to use the verb *to be* to make true statements.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three. Pairs or groups of four are also possible.

Give each group a set of cards and a piece of paper for keeping score.

Ask the students to shuffle the cards and deal out 15 cards each, leaving the rest in a pile face-down on the table.

Players then place their cards face-up on the table in front of them.

The first player looks at their cards and makes a true affirmative or negative sentence by placing three cards face-up on the table and reading the sentence aloud, e.g. 'I'm a student'.

If the sentence is formed correctly and is true, the player scores a point.

Players may indicate to things or people in the classroom to help justify a sentence as being true.

The player then takes three more cards from the pile.

Each player should always have 15 cards until there are no cards left in the pile.

The next player then puts down three cards and makes a true sentence and so on.

If a player cannot make a true sentence, they take a card from the top of the pile, put one of their cards at the bottom, and miss a turn.

The game continues until all the cards have been used.

The player with the most points at the end of the game wins.

As an extension, set a time limit (e.g. five minutes) and have the groups make as many true sentences as they can using the cards. The group with the most correct sentences wins.



I	You	We	They	He	She	It
I	You	We	They	He	She	It
I	You	We	They	He	She	It
I	You	We	They	He	She	It
'm	are	are	are	is	is	is
'm	are	are	are	is	is	is
'm not	aren't	aren't	aren't	isn't	isn't	isn't
'm not	aren't	aren't	aren't	isn't	isn't	isn't
a student	ten years old	students	children	single	a man	a pen
a teacher	sixteen years old	teachers	teenagers	married	a woman	a computer
a boy	young	happy	fat	smart	short	a book
a girl	old	sad	thin	friendly	tall	orange