

Activity Type

Grammar Game:
matching, sentence
completion (pair work)

Focus

Past perfect simple and
past perfect continuous

Aim

To match sentence halves
together and complete
them using the past
perfect simple or past
perfect continuous.

Preparation

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

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this past perfect simple or past perfect continuous game, students race to match sentence halves together and complete them using the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (Student A and B) and give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Have the students sit back to back and tell them not to show their worksheet to their partner.

Explain that each pair is going to compete against another pair and race to see who can be the first to correctly match and complete all the sentences on their worksheet using the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

Next, match the competing pairs together.

The students then take it in turns to read each beginning sentence half to their partner who listens and chooses a suitable ending from their worksheet.

Their partner then reads the letter and ending, putting the verb in brackets into the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous as appropriate.

If both students agree it's correct, the other student writes down the letter and ending next to the sentence half on their worksheet and they move on to the next sentence.

If not, their partner reads other possible endings to find the right one.

The first pair to finish and correctly match and complete all the sentences wins.

Afterwards, check the correct answers as a class.

(answer key on the next page)

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Answer key

Student A

1. f / where I had spilled my coffee.
2. b / because she had been chopping onions.
3. k / who I hadn't seen for ages.
4. i / because he had been seeing someone else.
5. m / because they had forgotten their passports.
6. c / as I hadn't watered them for ages.
7. j / since I had already eaten dinner.
8. a / as I had been biting them a lot lately.
9. e / when I told them I had seen a ghost.
10. g / that Lucas and Ava had broken up.
11. h / as I hadn't been sleeping well for a while.
12. n / because he had been standing all day at work.
13. d / that our dog had been barking all night.
14. l / Miguel had already bought the tickets.

Student B

1. g / most of the students had fallen asleep.
2. m / as he had already done his homework.
3. e / where his sister had kicked him.
4. l / as I had heard a loud noise.
5. c / since he hadn't invited me to his.
6. d / that she had been crying.
7. h / that I had been wearing my top inside out all day.
8. f / we had been waiting for over an hour.
9. b / as he had been wearing the same socks for a week.
10. i / as I hadn't plugged it in.
11. n / because my alarm hadn't rung.
12. j / because I had been driving too fast.
13. k / she hadn't had breakfast yet.
14. a / because I had forgotten to fill it.

Student A

Take it in turns to read each beginning sentence half to your partner. Listen to their ending. If you both agree it's correct, write down the letter and ending. If not, ask your partner to read other possible endings to find the right one.

1. There was a stain on my shirt
2. Gemma was crying
3. I met a friend in the street
4. Jill broke up with her boyfriend
5. They weren't allowed on the plane
6. My plants all died
7. I didn't have any of the pizza
8. My fingernails looked awful
9. Nobody believed me
10. We were shocked to hear
11. I cut down on coffee
12. James wanted to sit down
13. The neighbours called to complain
14. When Ann arrived at the cinema,

Listen to each beginning sentence half and choose the correct ending below. Read the letter and ending to your partner for them to write down, putting the verb in brackets into the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous as appropriate.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. because I (forget) to fill it. | h. that I (wear) my top inside out all day. |
| b. as he (wear) the same socks for a week. | i. as I (not plug) it in. |
| c. since he (not invite) me to his. | j. because I (drive) too fast. |
| d. that she (cry). | k. she (not have) breakfast yet. |
| e. where his sister (kick) him. | l. as I (hear) a loud noise. |
| f. we (wait) for over an hour. | m. as he (already / do) his homework. |
| g. most of the students (fall) asleep. | n. because my alarm (not ring). |



Student B

Take it in turns to read each beginning sentence half to your partner. Listen to their ending. If you both agree it's correct, write down the letter and ending. If not, ask your partner to read other possible endings to find the right one.

1. By the end of the lesson,
2. Tim went out to play
3. Raj had a bruise on his leg
4. I went outside
5. I didn't invite him to my party
6. It was obvious from her face
7. I was embarrassed when I realised
8. When our food finally arrived,
9. Joe's feet smelt awful
10. My lamp wasn't working
11. I woke up late and missed the bus
12. I had to pay a fine
13. When I met Sylvie at 11 o'clock,
14. My petrol tank was empty

Listen to each beginning sentence half and choose the correct ending below. Read the letter and ending to your partner for them to write down, putting the verb in brackets into the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous as appropriate.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a. as I (bite) them a lot lately. | h. as I (not sleep) well for a while. |
| b. because she (chop) onions. | i. because he (see) someone else. |
| c. as I (not water) them for ages. | j. since I (already /eat) dinner. |
| d. that our dog (bark) all night. | k. who I (not see) for ages. |
| e. when I told them I (see) a ghost. | l. Miguel (already / buy) the tickets. |
| f. where I (spill) my coffee. | m. because they (forget) their passports. |
| g. that Lucas and Ava (break up). | n. because he (stand) all day at work. |

