

Activity Type

Reading and matching activity, pair work

Focus

Subject-verb agreement

Present simple

Aim

To play a pelmanism game to practice subject-verb agreement where you match subjects, verbs and objects together to make sentences.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated, keeping the subject, verb and object cards separate.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this subject-verb agreement activity, students play a pelmanism game where they match subjects, verbs and objects together to make sentences.

Procedure

Begin the activity by reviewing subject-verb agreement with the class, including subjects other than subject pronouns, e.g. 'Amy and Thomas'.

Next, divide the students into pairs. Groups of three are also possible.

Give each pair a set of subject, verb and object cards.

Ask the students to shuffle each set of cards separately and spread them out face down on the table in three sets.

Students then compete to make sentences from the cards.

The first student turns over one card from each set, starting with a subject card and ending with an object card.

If the three cards match to make a grammatically correct sentence, the student reads the sentence aloud, keeps the three cards and has another turn.

If the cards don't match, the student turns them back over, keeping them in the same place.

It's then the next student's turn to play.

Students have to be especially careful to choose the form of the verb that agrees with the subject as each verb has two cards, one with an 's' and one without an 's'.

The game continues until all the cards have been matched.

If students are unsure whether three cards match, they can ask you to adjudicate. The correct answers are shown in order on the uncut worksheet.

The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Finally, go through the correct answers with the class and review subject-verb agreement with the various subjects.



Mr and Mrs Lee	Tom and I	You
I	Her cats	We
My brother	My bicycle	She
He	My sister	My uncle Oliver
watch	play	drink
sing	need	give
sings	needs	watches
plays	drinks	gives
baseball on Saturdays together on their sofa.	football every weekend with our friends.	a lot of water with your lunch.
pop songs in my school music class.	special cat food from the veterinarian.	our parents handmade gifts on their birthdays.
his favourite songs in the shower.	a new front wheel.	a lot of films with her friends.
computer games with his brother.	milk before she goes to bed.	all his nephews and nieces presents at Christmas.