

Activity Type

Grammar Game:
pelmanism

Speaking Activity: asking
and answering questions
from prompts, freer
practice (pair work)

Focus

Irregular verb forms

Past simple

Aim

To match infinitive and
past simple irregular
verbs together and then
ask and answer past
simple questions with the
verbs.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
irregular verb cards for
each pair of students
and cut as indicated.
Also, make one copy of
the worksheet for each
student.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this set of irregular verb activities, students play a pelmanism game where they match infinitive and past simple irregular verbs together. Students then practice asking and answering past simple questions with the verbs.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a set of irregular verb cards. Tell the students to shuffle the cards and spread them out face down on the desk.

The students then play a pelmanism game where they take it in turns to turn over two cards. If a student turns over a matching pair of infinitive and past simple irregular verbs, they keep the two cards and have another turn.

If the cards do not match, the student turns them back over, keeping them in the same place.

This continues until all the cards have been matched. The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet. Tell the students to write short answers to the questions in the squares in a random order.

When the students have finished writing their answers, they cut the worksheet as indicated. Students then work with a new partner.

The students swap their answer sheets and take it in turns to guess why their partner has written the words or phrases in the squares. They do this by asking and answering past simple questions.

Example:

Student A has written the word 'a bag' in one of the squares.

Student B: Did you bring a bag to class today?

Student A: No, I didn't.

Student B: Did you buy a bag yesterday?

Student A: Yes, I did. I bought a new sports bag.

Once the student has discovered what the answer relates to, the answer is crossed off. Encourage the students to explain their answers and to find out more information by asking follow-up questions.

When the students have finished, they report back their findings to the class.

Irregular verb cards

bring

brought

sing

sang

buy

bought

sleep

slept

go

went

spend

spent

fall

fell

stand

stood

feel

felt

think

thought

fly

flew

read

read

lose

lost

run

ran

teach

taught

wear

wore

Write short answers to the following questions. Write your answers in a random order in the squares below.

- something you brought to class today
- something you bought yesterday
- where you went last night
- the last time you fell over
- how you felt at the beginning of the lesson
- the last time you flew somewhere
- the last thing you lost
- something your teacher taught you in the last lesson
- the last time you sang
- the last time you slept for less than six hours
- how much money you spent yesterday
- the last time you stood somewhere for a long time
- something you thought was frightening when you were a child
- the last thing you read
- the last time you ran somewhere
- something you wore that you really liked



Answer sheet
