

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Third-person singular subject-verb agreement

Present simple

Aim

To complete present simple sentences in a running dictation using the correct third-person singular subject-verb agreement.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two texts and stick Text A and B in different places on a wall outside the classroom.

Also, make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students and cut as indicated.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

Here is a subject-verb agreement running dictation activity that offers extensive practice of third-person singular subject-verb agreement in the present simple.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs.

One student is the 'reader' and the other is the 'writer'. Give each writer a copy of worksheet A.

When you say 'go', the writers read out the first gapped sentence to their reader, i.e. 'Her name...'

The reader runs to Text A, reads the text to find the missing information to complete the sentence, remembers it, runs back and tells the writer.

The writer then completes the sentence using the correct third-person singular subject-verb agreement.

This procedure is repeated with all 12 sentences.

When a pair has completed the sentences, check their worksheet.

If the sentences are correct and use the appropriate subject-verb agreement, the students swap roles. If not, the students must go back and try to find the mistake.

The new writer is given a copy of worksheet B and the new reader uses Text B to find the information. The process is then repeated.

The first pair of students to finish wins.

Answer key

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. is Ella Taylor | 1. is Richard Ellis |
| 2. is / receptionist | 2. is / English teacher |
| 3. wakes / 7:30 in the morning | 3. wakes / 7:00 in the morning |
| 4. has toast and coffee | 4. has eggs and bacon |
| 5. gets ready for work | 5. has a shower |
| 6. starts / 9:00 a.m. | 6. starts / 8:30 a.m. |
| 7. answers phone calls/
greet visitors | 7. marks homework/
prepares his lessons |
| 8. has salad/the staff canteen | 8. has a sandwich/his office |
| 9. replies to emails | 9. teaches his students |
| 10. goes jogging in the park | 10. goes cycling |
| 11. cooks dinner/watches TV | 11. surfs the Internet/watches
films |
| 12. goes / 11:30 p.m. | 12. goes / 11:00 p.m. |

Text A

My name is Ella Taylor. I'm a receptionist. I wake up at 7:30 in the morning. I have toast and coffee for breakfast. After breakfast, I get ready for work. I start work at 9:00 a.m. In the morning, I answer phone calls and greet visitors. At lunchtime, I usually have a salad at the staff canteen. In the afternoon, I reply to emails. I finish work at 4:00 p.m. After work, I go jogging in the park. In the evening, I cook dinner and watch TV. I go to bed at 11:30 p.m.

Text B

My name is Richard Ellis. I'm an English teacher. I wake up at 7:00 in the morning. I have eggs and bacon for breakfast. After breakfast, I have a shower. I start work at 8:30 a.m. In the morning, I mark homework and prepare my lessons. At lunchtime, I usually have a sandwich in my office. In the afternoon, I teach my students. I finish work at 3:30 p.m. After work, I go cycling. In the evening, I surf the Internet and watch films. I go to bed at 11:00 p.m.

Worksheet A

1. Her name
2. She a
3. She up at
4. She for breakfast.
5. After breakfast, she
6. She work at
7. In the morning, she and
8. At lunchtime, she usually at
9. In the afternoon, she
10. After work, she
11. In the evening, she and
12. She to bed at



Worksheet B

1. His name
2. He an
3. He up at
4. He for breakfast.
5. After breakfast, he
6. He work at
7. In the morning, he and
8. At lunchtime, he usually in
9. In the afternoon, he
10. After work, he
11. In the evening, he and
12. He to bed at