

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking
Activity: information gap,
asking and answering
questions from prompts
(pair work)

Focus

Past simple *Wh* questions
and answers

Aim

To ask and answer past
simple *Wh* questions
in order to complete
missing information in a
chart.

Preparation

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

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple information gap activity, students ask and answer *Wh* questions in the past simple to complete missing information in a chart.

Procedure

Explain that the students are going to ask past simple *Wh* questions to a partner in order to complete missing information in a chart.

Draw an example chart on the board and elicit the past simple questions and answers from the prompts.

Example:

Terry	Monday
Where / go	beach
What time / go there	11 a.m.
How / go there	by car
Who / go with	Helen

Where did Terry go on Monday?

He went to the beach.

What time did he go there?

He went there at 11 a.m.

How did he go there?

He went there by car.

Who did he go with?

He went with Helen.

Next, divide the students into pairs (Students A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Have the students sit facing their partners.

Tell the students not to show their worksheet to their partner.





Students then use the prompts on their worksheet to ask and answer the questions and complete the chart.

When the students have finished, they compare charts to check their answers.

Student A

Ask your partner past simple *Wh* questions to complete the missing information in the chart.

Example: A: Where did Roger go on Tuesday? B: He went to the supermarket.

Questions	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Roger  Where / go When / go there What / buy	market afternoon flowers	..... ..... .....	post office morning stamps	..... ..... .....	corner shop evening beer
Vicky  Where / go What time / go there How / go there	..... ..... .....	office 8 a.m. by car	..... ..... .....	shopping mall 6 p.m by bus	..... ..... .....
Harry  Where / go What / eat Who / go with	Mexican restaurant fajitas girlfriend	..... ..... .....	coffee shop pastry bestfriend	..... ..... .....	Italian restaurant pizza brother
Katie  Where / go What / do there Who / go with	..... ..... .....	beach sunbath Emma	..... ..... .....	concert music Vicky	..... ..... .....

Student B

Ask your partner past simple *Wh* questions to complete the missing information in the chart.

Example: B: Where did Roger go on Monday? A: He went to the market.

Questions	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Roger  Where / go When / go there What / buy .....	.....	7-eleven	.....	phone shop	.....
.....	.....	morning	.....	lunch-time	.....
.....	.....	bread	.....	SIM card	.....
Vicky  Where / go What time / go there How / go there	gym	.....	cafe	.....	cinema
.....	7 a.m.	.....	1 p.m	.....	8 p.m
.....	by bicycle	.....	on foot	.....	by taxi
Harry  Where / go What / eat Who / go with .....	.....	pub	.....	Chinese restaurant	.....
.....	.....	steak	.....	noodles	.....
.....	.....	Darren	.....	boss	.....
Katie  Where / go What / do there Who / go with	park	.....	cinema	.....	gym
.....	badminton	.....	Star Wars 9	.....	exercise
.....	Derek	.....	Michael	.....	Mary