

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

There is/are...

There isn't/aren't...

Is/Are there...?

Aim

To describe famous cities using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...' for a partner to guess.

Preparation

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

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this 'There is/are' guessing game, students describe famous cities using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...' for a partner to guess.

Procedure

Write a famous city that the students know well on the board. Ask the students to describe the city with 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...' Write their descriptions on the board and review the language.

Next, think of a city and write it on a piece of paper. Ask the students to guess the name of the city by asking questions with 'Is/Are there...?' Keep answering their questions until they guess the name of the city.

After that, divide the students into pairs (Student A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Tell the students not to show their worksheets to each other.

Student A begins by using the prompts on the worksheet to describe city number one with 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't....' The student can also use their own ideas to help their partner guess the city.

Student B listens and tries to guess the name of the city.

Student B scores two points for correctly guessing without asking questions. If need be, they ask questions with 'Is/Are there...?' to help them guess for one point.

Encourage the students to use quantifiers in their sentences and questions, e.g. a lot of, many, a few, etc.

When Student B has guessed all four cities, the students swap roles.

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

When everyone has finished, have a class feedback session. Find out which cities were easy and difficult to guess and whether the students learnt anything new about the cities.

Finally, pairs write their own description of a famous city. Pairs then take it in turns to read their descriptions and the class tries to guess the name of each city.

Student A

A. Describe the four cities to your partner using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'

Answer any questions your partner has to help them guess the names of the cities

1. Bangkok

temples

tuk-tuks



a Grand Palace

no mountains

2. Venice

old buildings

gondolas



canals

not many roads

3. Amsterdam

windmills

tulips

canals

no big mountains



4. New York

skyscrapers

no beach

a famous statue

yellow taxis



B. Now, listen to your partner's descriptions and guess the names of the cities.

You score two points for correctly guessing without asking questions. If need be, ask questions with 'Is/Are there...?' to help you guess for one point.

Student B

A. Listen to your partner's descriptions and guess the names of the cities.

You score two points for correctly guessing without asking questions. If need be, ask questions with 'Is/Are there...?' to help you guess for one point.

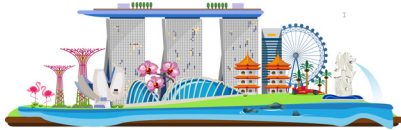
B. Now, describe the four cities to your partner using 'There is/are...' and 'There isn't/aren't...'

Answer any questions your partner has to help them guess the names of the cities

1. Singapore

tall buildings

no litter



a port

a garden by the bay

2. Dubai

modern buildings

sand

artificial islands

not many trees



3. London

red buses

no beach

a big clock

underground trains



4. Sydney

beaches

a harbor

an opera house

no mountains

