

Activity Type

Writing activity

Focus

Time expressions

Tenses

Sentence structure

Aim

To write sentences in a certain tense using a specific time expression.

Preparation

Prepare two sets of identical time expression cards.

The time expressions should review a variety of tenses, e.g. next year, a few days ago, at the moment, etc.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

This useful sentence race game can be used to practice time expressions used with different tenses.

Procedure

Divide the students into two teams.

Give an identical set of time expression cards to each team.

Ask the teams to shuffle the cards and spread them out face down on the table.

Assign the students in each team with a number.

Call out a student number and time expression, e.g. Student 3, last year.

The two students with that number race to turn over and turn back the time expression cards until they find the correct time expression.

When the students find the right time expression card, they run to the board and write a sentence using the time expression in the related tense, e.g. 'Last year, I went to Italy'.

The first student to write a grammatically correct sentence in the appropriate tense scores a point for their team.

Each sentence written by a team must use a different verb and subject pronoun.

Repeat the game until all the time expressions have been used.

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