

As If and As Though Challenges

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: matching, forming sentences from prompts, controlled practice (group work)

Focus

Clauses of manner

'As if' and 'as though'

Aim

To practice using 'as if' and 'as though' with the present simple and present continuous to describe situations that appear to be true.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two sets of cards for each group of three and cut as indicated. Keep the situation cards and the sentence prompt cards separate.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this 'as if' and 'as though' game, students practice forming sentences using 'as if' and 'as though' with the present simple and present continuous.

Procedure

Divide the class into groups of three.

Give each group a set of situation cards and a set of sentence prompt cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the two sets of cards and then deal out all the sentence prompt cards evenly and put the situation cards face down in a pile on the table.

The first student turns over the top situation card, reads it to the group, and then lays it face up on the table.

Next, all the students look at their cards and try to find the matching sentence prompt.

The student with the matching card then uses the prompt to make an 'as if' or 'as though' sentence that refers to the situation, e.g. for the situation 'You're ready to leave for work, but your car won't start', the matching prompt would be 'It seems as if the battery is dead.'

If everyone in the group agrees that the sentence corresponds to the situation and is grammatically correct, the two cards are removed from the game.

If the sentence isn't grammatically correct, the situation card is placed at the bottom of the pile.

If the sentence doesn't correspond to the situation, another student can try to answer.

If students are unsure, they can ask you to adjudicate.

The second student then turns over the next situation card from the pile, and so on.

The first student to get rid of all their sentence prompt cards wins the game.

Afterwards, check the answers by eliciting the matching card for each situation and the corresponding 'as if' or 'as though' sentence.

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

Answer key

1. p. It seems as if / as though the battery is dead.
2. l. It looks as if / as though they have guests.
3. m. It looks as if / as though there is a street party happening.
4. r. It looks as if / as though she is working at home today.
5. h. It sounds as if / as though they are making some home improvements.
6. i. It looks as if / as though he is going to the gym.
7. d. She looks as if / as though she is waiting for an important call.
8. f. It sounds as if / as though I need to take an umbrella.
9. q. She looks as if / as though she is cold.
10. k. It seems as if / as though he's planning a trip.
11. n. It looks as if / as though we have an electrical problem.
12. b. It seems as if / as though they aren't coming.
13. g. It seems as if / as though they are finally moving.
14. o. It sounds as if / as though she is hungry.
15. a. It looks as if / as though I need to buy a new laptop.
16. e. It seems as if / as though he is busy.
17. c. He looks as if / as though he has a cold.
18. j. It sounds as if / as though he doesn't understand the lesson.

As If and As Though Challenges



1. You're ready to leave for work, but your car won't start.	2. You arrive home and see an extra car parked in your neighbour's driveway.	3. The street is full of decorations, and a band is playing music.
4. You go to the office to surprise your friend, but her computer is off, and her desk is clean.	5. There is a lot of construction noise coming from your neighbour's house.	6. When you arrive home, you find your husband wearing sports clothes and trainers.
7. Your friend, Paula, has been checking her phone every couple of minutes.	8. You're getting ready to go shopping, but you can hear the storm outside.	9. Your friend, Sara, is wearing her hat and jacket in class.
10. Your brother has bought a guidebook for Japan.	11. Suddenly, all of the lights in your house go out.	12. You've been waiting for your students to arrive for more than half an hour.
13. You see a real estate agent's sign in your neighbour's garden.	14. Your daughter has asked you for a snack several times.	15. You've spilled coffee on your computer, and now it won't turn on.
16. You want to talk to your boss, but you can see he is on the phone and writing an email.	17. You arrive home to find your brother on the couch with a runny nose and a headache.	18. You're in class, and a student is asking the teacher many questions.

As If and As Though Challenges



a. it / look / I / need / buy / a new laptop	b. it / seem / they / not / come	c. he / look / he / have / a cold
d. she / look / she / be / wait / for an important call	e. it / seem / he / be / busy	f. it / sound / I / need / take an umbrella
g. it / seem / they / be / finally / move	h. it / sound / they / be / make / some home improvements	i. it / look / he / be / go / to the gym
j. it / sound / he / not / understand the lesson	k. it / seem / he / be / plan / a trip	l. it / look / they / have / guests
m. it / look / there / be / a street party / happen	n. it / look / we / have / an electrical problem	o. it / sound / she / be hungry
p. it / seem / the battery / be / dead	q. she / look / she / be / cold	r. it / look / she / be / work at home today