

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, group work

Language Focus

'Used to'

'Didn't use to'

Aim

To talk about how things were different in the past using 'used to' and 'didn't use to'.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of three and cut as indicated.

Level

Intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this 'used to' activity, students play a game where they talk about how things were different in the past using 'used to' and 'didn't use to'.

Procedure

Divide the class into groups of three.

Give each group a set of cards. Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face down in a pile on the desk.

Demonstrate the activity by taking a card and reading out the topic, e.g. computers.

Briefly describe how computers were different in the past using 'used to' and 'didn't use to', e.g. 'Computers used to have floppy disks. The monitors didn't use to be slim and flat like they are today', etc...

When you have finished describing how computers used to be, tell the students that they will do the same activity in their groups.

Explain that the students must talk about each topic for a minimum of 30 seconds. Each time a student makes a sentence with 'used to' or 'didn't use to', they score one point.

The students then take it in turns to pick up a card and talk about the topic on the card, saying how the thing was different in the past.

When a member of the group is talking, the other students are responsible for timing the speaker and awarding points.

If a student talks for less than 30 seconds, they score no points.

The student with the most points at the end of the game is the winner.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session and discuss how each thing was different in the past using the target language.



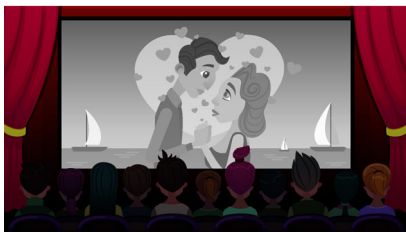
computers



the world



clothes



films



cars



drinks



money



work



education



music



families



mobile phones



housework



you



communication