

Activity Type

Interactive reading, writing, listening and speaking exercise

Language Focus

Past perfect

Giving explanations

Aim

To write realistic and imaginative explanations for situations using the past perfect tense.

Preparation

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this past perfect interactive worksheet, students write realistic and imaginative explanations for situations.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by going through the first sentence from the worksheet with the class, i.e. 'I walked into class, but I didn't recognize anyone'.

Ask the students for a realistic explanation in the past perfect as to why you didn't recognize anyone, e.g. 'You had walked into the wrong class'.

Then, ask the students for a more imaginative explanation – one that might come from a story or film, e.g. 'You had lost your memory'.

Tell the students that they are going to use the past perfect to come up with explanations for similar situations.

Explain that the students must write two explanations for each situation – a realistic explanation (Fact) and an imaginative explanation (Fiction).

When everyone has finished writing, tell the class that they are going to vote for the most realistic and imaginative explanations.

Read out the first situation on the worksheet.

Each student then reads their 'Fact' explanation to the class in turn.

Ask the students to correct any mistakes they hear.

Take a class vote for the most realistic explanation and award one point to the winning student.

Continue with the 'Fiction' explanation and have the class vote for the most imaginative one.

After that, move on to the second situation and so on.

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