

Activity Type

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

Focus

Past perfect continuous

Aim

To practice forming past perfect continuous sentences.

Preparation

Make one copy of the beginning cards and ending cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated, keeping the two sets of cards separate.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this past perfect continuous game, students race to match sentence halves together and put them in the past perfect continuous form.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of beginning cards and a set of ending cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the beginning cards and place them face-down in a pile on the table and to shuffle the ending cards and spread them out on the table face-up.

Players then take turns picking up a beginning card from the pile, reading the first half of the sentence aloud and placing it face-up on the table for everyone to see.

All the players then race to find a matching ending from the cards on the table.

The first player to find the correct ending picks it up and reads it out, putting the verb in brackets in the past perfect continuous form.


If the other players agree that the ending matches and is grammatically correct, the player writes the past perfect continuous form of the verb on the ending card and keeps the two cards.

If the other players think that the ending doesn't match or is grammatically incorrect, the player is out of the round and the other players continue looking for the correct ending.

The player with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Answer key

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. 27, had been lying | m. 20, had been missing |
| b. 13, had been drinking | n. 7, had been baking |
| c. 24, hadn't been spending | o. 19, had been travelling |
| d. 12, had been wearing | p. 6, had not been coming |
| e. 25, had been eating | q. 18, had been eating |
| f. 11, had just been running | r. 5, had been waiting |
| g. 23, had been talking | s. 17, had been making |
| h. 10, had been raining | t. 4, had been working |
| i. 22, had been watering | u. 15, had been driving |
| j. 9, had been cheating | v. 3, had just been cutting |
| k. 21, had been reading | w. 14, had been crying |
| l. 8, had been sitting | x. 2, had been feeling |



a. I was upset when I found out...

b. Alice couldn't sleep...

c. I had managed to save some money...

d. He was wearing the same shirt...

e. I could tell from his breath that...

f. Pedro was breathing hard...

g. My wife woke me up to tell me...

h. The grass was wet...

i. The plants were all dead...

j. Ann split up with Tom after learning...

k. She was telling me about the book...

l. My chair was warm...

m. When we finally found him...

n. There was flour all over the kitchen...

o. By the time Sara arrived in Rome,...

p. The teacher called my mum to tell her...

q. The kids weren't hungry...

r. By the time the bus arrived,...

s. The neighbours called to complain...

t. Before they got married,...

u. The police stopped my car to tell me...

v. Sara was crying...

w. I could tell from her red face...

x. Jose went to the doctor...

1. because he
(not / pay) his taxes.

2. because he
(feel) ill for a while.

3. as she
(just / cut) onions.

4. they
(work) together for a long time.

5. we
(wait) for an hour.

6. that I
(not / come) to class.

7. as I
(bake) bread.

8. because the cat
(sit) on it.

9. that he
(cheat) on her.

10. because it
(rain)

11. as he
(just / run)

12. that he
(wear) the day before.

13. as she
(drink) coffee all day.

14. that she
(cry)

15. that I
(drive) too fast.

16. as I
(work) on the computer all day.

17. that we
(make) too much noise.

18. because they
(eat) all day.

19. she
(travel) for 12 hours.

20. he
(miss) for two days.

21. that she
(read)

22. because nobody
(water) them.

23. that I
(talk) in my sleep.

24. because I
(not spend) much.

25. he
(eat) garlic.

26. because he
(eat) too much pizza.

27. Tom
(lie) to me.

28. as it
(jump) in the bed.