

How well do you know your partner?

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking breakout room activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Past simple and present perfect

Aim

To see how well you know a partner by completing sentences about them in the past simple and present perfect and then verifying the information by asking and answering questions.

Preparation

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this interactive past simple vs. present perfect breakout room activity, students see how well they know a partner by completing sentences about them and then verifying the information by asking and answering questions.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs and put them in breakout rooms. Send each student a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the students that they are going to see how well they know their partner by completing sentences about them in the past simple and present perfect.

Demonstrate the activity with the first two sentences from the worksheet. Invite students to complete the two sentences using your name with information that they think is true for you.

Example:

1. James started learning English in 1990.
2. James has had his mobile phone for six months.

Next, elicit the questions the students need to ask you to find out if their sentences are correct, i.e. 'When did you start learning English?' and 'How long have you had your mobile phone?'

Then, answer the questions to see if the students' sentences are correct or not.

Working alone, the students then complete the sentences about their partner in the past simple or present perfect using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Students do this without conferring with their partner.

When the students have completed the sentences, ask them to prepare the questions they need to ask to verify the information.

When the questions have been prepared, tell the students to find out how many of their sentences are right by taking it in turns to ask and answer questions in the past simple and present perfect.

Students score themselves one point for each correct sentence. The student with the highest score wins.

Afterwards, get feedback from the students to see how well they know their partner and find out who got the highest score.