

Activity Type

Writing and speaking activity

Language Focus

Third conditional

Aim

To complete third conditional sentences and then ask third conditional questions to find out who wrote each sentence.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated. You will also need a box for this activity.

Level

Intermediate

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this entertaining speaking activity, students complete third conditional sentences about imaginary or unlikely situations in the past. The students then play a game where they race to find out who wrote each sentence by asking third conditional questions.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three. Groups of four are also possible.

Give each group a set of cards and tell the students to deal out the cards evenly.

Students then complete the third conditional sentences on their cards any way they like. Students should not write their names on the cards or let anyone see what they are writing.

The students now work together as a class. Put a box in the middle of the room and ask all the students to fold up their completed sentences and put them in the box.

Demonstrate the activity by taking a card from the box and reading the sentence aloud, e.g. 'If I had gone on holiday last week, I would have gone to the beach'.

Elicit the third conditional question you will need to ask to find out who wrote the sentence, i.e. 'If you had gone on holiday last week, would you have gone to the beach?'

Ask students the question until you find the person who wrote the sentence. Make it clear that even though students may answer yes to the question, you are looking for the person who wrote it. If this happens, students can reply 'Yes, I would, but I didn't write the sentence'.

Now ask the students to stand up and take one card each from the box. If they choose their own sentence, they should put it back and take another one.

Students then go around the class asking their questions to find out who wrote the sentence on their card. When a student finds the person who wrote the sentence, they write the person's name on the card, keep it, and take another card from the box.

The students repeat the activity until there are no sentences left in the box. The student with the most sentences at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, ask students to report back to the class on what they found out during the activity.

If I had gone on holiday last week,
I would have...

If I had gone to bed late last night,
I would have...

If I had found a lot of money on my way to
class today, I would have...

If I hadn't decided to learn English,
I would have...

If I had followed my parent's advice,
I would have...

If I had met my great-great-grandparents,
I would have...

If I had met an alien on my way to class
today. I would have...

If I had been born a member of the
opposite sex, I would have...

If I hadn't come here today,
I would have...

If I had never met my best friend,
I would have...

If I had been born into a famous family,
I would have...

If I had saved more money,
I would have...
