

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Apologizing and giving excuses

'I'm sorry...'

Aim

To give excuses, starting with 'I'm sorry...'

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students and cut as indicated.

Level

Pre-intermediate

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this fun teaching activity, students practice apologizing and excuses.

Procedure

Begin the activity by writing the following situations on the board:

You didn't go to class.
You didn't answer a phone call.
You arrived an hour late for lunch.
You missed a meeting.
You didn't go to football practice.
You didn't wish your friend happy birthday.
You were late for class.

Ask the students to write an excuse for each one, starting with 'I'm sorry...'

Encourage the students to be as inventive as possible and remind them that they should use the past simple when giving excuses, e.g. 'I'm sorry, I was late. I was stuck in traffic'.

When the students have finished writing, ask some students to read out their excuses.

Next, divide the students into pairs (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding part of the worksheet.

Explain that Student A has a diary of Student B's behaviour last week and must ask for reasons for their actions, e.g. 'Why were you late for class last Monday?'

Student B uses the picture prompt for that day and gives an excuse, starting with 'I'm sorry...'

Student A listens to each excuse and writes the day next to the appropriate picture.

When the students have finished, they compare worksheets to check the answers.

Student A

Your partner did the following things last week:

Monday - was late for class

Tuesday - didn't go to football practice

Wednesday - missed a meeting

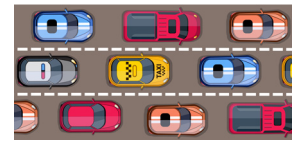
Thursday - didn't wish you happy birthday

Friday - didn't go to class

Saturday - didn't answer your phone call

Sunday - arrived an hour late for lunch

Ask your partner for reasons for their behaviour last week, e.g. 'Why were you late for class last Monday?' Listen to each excuse and write the day next to the appropriate picture.



Student B

Answer your partner's questions about your behaviour last week. Use the picture prompts and give excuses. Start each excuse with 'I'm sorry...'



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday