

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Past simple 'Wh' questions

Holiday vocabulary

Aim

To dictate a past simple text and use past simple 'Wh' questions to talk about your last holiday.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student and one copy of the 'running dictation text' for the class.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

45 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple questions activity, students take part in a running dictation about someone's holiday. The students then ask and answer past simple Wh questions about their last holiday.

Procedure

Stick the running dictation text onto a wall outside the classroom.

Put the students into pairs, one student is the 'writer' and the other is the 'reader'. Explain to the students that the readers are going to dictate a text to their partner (the writer).

Tell the readers to stand up, go to the text, read it, and then return and dictate what they read to their partner. Explain that they will probably have to return to the text several times, remembering a short chunk of the text each time.

When the students have finished, the readers sit with their writing partner to check their text.

After they have checked the text, give each student a copy of the worksheet. Tell the students to complete the past simple questions using the prompts.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. When did you go on holiday?
2. Where did you go?
3. How did you travel there?
4. Who did you go with?
5. Where did you stay?
6. How long did you stay there?
7. What did you do?
8. Did you have fun?

Students then use the eight questions to write notes about their own holiday in the column marked 'You'. After that, they ask three other students about their last holiday and complete the other columns. As a follow-up, the students write a paragraph about their last holiday using the past simple.



Running Dictation Text

Last summer, I went to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil with my best friend, James. We travelled there by airplane and stayed at a hotel near Copacabana Beach for 2 weeks. Every day, I went swimming and surfing in the sea. My friend James sunbathed on the beach. In the evenings, we drank beer and watched the sunset. After dinner, we went dancing in the night clubs. We both had a great time. We plan to go back to Brazil next year.

A. Use the prompts to create past simple questions for the answers below.

Example:

1. When / go on holiday?

Q: *When did you go on holiday?* A: I went on holiday last summer.



2. Where / go?

Q: A: I went to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

3. How / travel there?

Q: A: I travelled there by airplane.

4. Who / go with?

Q: A: I went with my best friend.

5. Where / stay?

Q: A: I stayed in a hotel.

6. How long / stay there?

Q: A: I stayed there for 2 weeks.

7. What / do?

Q: A: I went swimming and surfing.

8. have fun?

Q: A: Yes, I did. It was awesome.

B. Now, answer the same eight questions about your last holiday and write the answers in the column marked 'You'. Then, ask three other students about their last holiday and complete the other columns in the chart.

Questions	You			
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				