Activity Type
Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pairwork

Language 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 'Wh' 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? 5. Where did you stay?
2. Where did you go? 6. How long did you stay there?
3. How did you travel there? 7. What did you do?
4. Who did you go with? 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.

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