

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice (group work)

Focus

Past simple affirmative sentences

'When did you last...?' questions

Time expressions

Aim

To practice asking and answering 'When did you last...?' questions and making past simple affirmative sentences with a range of time expressions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the picture cards and time expression cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated. Keep the two sets of cards separate.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple game, students ask and answer 'When did you last...?' questions from picture prompts and try to give typical past simple affirmative answers using accurate time expressions.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of picture cards and time expression cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the time expression cards and deal them out evenly. Then, shuffle the picture cards and place them face down in a pile on the desk.

One student goes first by picking up the top picture card from the pile.

The student asks the person on their right any 'When did you last...?' question based on the picture, e.g. 'When did you last go shopping?'

The other student looks at their time expression cards and tries to make a typical past simple sentence using one of the time expressions, e.g. 'I went shopping two days ago.'

If the group members agree that the sentence is typical, the student discards their time expression card.

If the answer sounds unusual, e.g. 'I went shopping last summer,' the group members say 'Oh, really?' and challenge the student to explain.

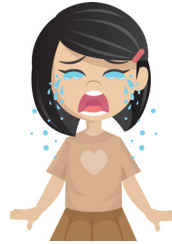
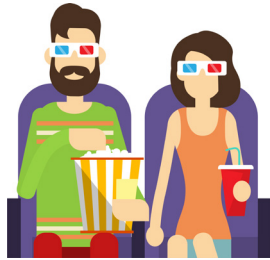
If challenged, the student may either admit it sounds unusual and keep the time expression card, or try to justify the answer by adding a short reason.

If the group accepts the reason, the student discards the time expression card.

After the group's decision has been made, the picture card is placed at the bottom of the pile.

It's then the next student's turn to pick up a picture card, and so on.

The first student to get rid of all their time expression cards wins the game.





ten minutes ago	half an hour ago	an hour ago	two hours ago
this morning	last night	yesterday	yesterday afternoon
the day before yesterday	two days ago	three days ago	on Saturday morning
last weekend	last Friday	last week	two weeks ago
last month	two months ago	three months ago	last summer
last year	two years ago	three years ago	five years ago