Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: forming sentences from prompts (pair work)

Focus

Past, present and future passive

Aim

To play a game of 'Battleships' using the past, present and future passive.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this passive voice game, students play Battleships using the past, present and future passive.

Procedure

Tell the students that they are going to play a game of battleships using the passive in eight tenses and that the aim of the game is to be the first student to find and destroy all their partner's ships.

Demonstrate the game by writing a simple active sentence on the board, e.g. 'Sophia writes the emails.' Then, write the eight tenses from the worksheet on the board and have the students change the active sentence into the eight passive structures.

Example:

Present simple	The emails are written by Sophia.
Past simple	The emails were written by Sophia.
Present continuous	The emails are being written by Sophia.
Present perfect	The emails have been written by Sophia.
Future simple (going to)	The emails are going to be written by Sophia.
Future simple (will)	The emails will be written by Sophia.
Past continuous	The emails were being written by Sophia.
Past perfect	The emails had been written by Sophia.

Next, divide the students into pairs. Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Have the students sit back to back so that they can't see each other's worksheet.

Students begin by marking the following ships horizontally or vertically on their 'My ships' grid:

1 carrier (five squares)   1 cruiser (three squares)
1 battleship (four squares)   1 submarine (two squares)

When the students have finished, they take turns choosing a square on their 'My partner's ships' grid. However, instead of giving a grid reference to find a ship, the student makes a passive sentence according to the active sentence and tense shown on each axis.

The other student listens to the sentence, looks at their 'My ships' grid and says whether it is a hit or miss. If it's a hit, the student marks the square with a 'H'. If it's a miss, the student puts an 'X'.

The first student to sink all their partner's ships wins the game.

Afterwards, review the passive sentences with the class and elicit which passive tense would be the most suitable for each sentence.

My ships

	Present simple	Past simple	Present continuous	Present perfect	Future (going to)	Future (will)	Past continuous	Past perfect
I keep the butter in the fridge.								
William repairs cars in his garage.								
Kim rescues animals that are in danger.								
He completes the project before the deadline.								
They clean the house every Saturday.								
Alex posts videos on Facebook.								
Wild fires destroy many forests.								
The teacher answers the students' questions.								

My partner's ships

	Present simple	Past simple	Present continuous	Present perfect	Future (going to)	Future (will)	Past continuous	Past perfect
I keep the butter in the fridge.								
William repairs cars in his garage.								
Kim rescues animals that are in danger.								
He completes the project before the deadline.								
They clean the house every Saturday.								
Alex posts videos on Facebook.								
Wild fires destroy many forests.								
The teacher answers the students' questions.								