

Activity Type

Grammar Activity:
sentence completion,
matching (pair work)

Focus

Past perfect

Aim

To complete and match
sentences in the past
perfect tense.

Preparation

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

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this past perfect activity, students complete and match sentences in the past perfect tense.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the first worksheet.

Tell the students to think about how the 14 sentences might be continued.

Then, give the students time to complete the sentences in the past perfect tense using their own ideas.

Next, divide the students into pairs.

Have the students compare their sentences by reading them to each other.

After that, give each student an A or B worksheet.

Tell the students to keep their worksheets secret.

Student A starts by reading the first sentence half to Student B.

Student B listens and tries to find the other half of the sentence.

When Student B thinks they have found a matching ending, they read it to Student A.

When both students agree the two halves match, they mark the matching number or letter next to the sentence.

This continues until all the sentences halves have been matched.

Afterwards, check the answers with the class.

Answer key

1. f 2. n 3. i 4. h 5. j 6. l 7. b
8. e 9. d 10. m 11. a 12. g 13. k 14. c

The students then check how many sentences were the same as what they wrote on the first worksheet.

Get feedback to see which pair got the most identical sentences.

Complete the sentences in the past perfect tense using your own ideas.

1. I couldn't find the restaurant because
2. I failed the English exam because
3. I argued with my girlfriend because
4. I couldn't eat the steak because
5. I didn't wake up on-time because
6. I couldn't catch the flight because
7. I bought a new phone because
8. I couldn't go swimming because
9. I couldn't find my flash drive because
10. I couldn't read the e-mail because
11. My phone didn't work because
12. I didn't recognize my friend because
13. I wanted to watch the film because
14. I didn't want to go to the pub because



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Student A

Read the first part of each sentence to your partner. Your partner will try to find the matching ending and read it to you. When you both agree the two halves match, write the corresponding letter next to the sentence.

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14. I didn't want to go to the pub because... ..

Student B

Listen to your partner read the first part of each sentence. Try to find the matching ending and read it to your partner. When you both agree the two halves match, write the corresponding number next to the sentence.

- a. ...I had forgotten to charge it.
- b. ...my friend had recommended it.
- c. ...I had gone there last night.
- d. ...somebody had stolen it.
- e. ...I had left my swimsuit at home.
- f. ...I had lost the directions.
- g. ...she had put on a lot of weight.
- h. ...the chef hadn't cooked it enough.
- i. ...she had come home late.
- j. ...I had forgotten to set the alarm.
- k. ...I had seen great reviews.
- l. ...I had left my passport at home.
- m. ...I hadn't brought my glasses.
- n. ...I hadn't studied enough.

