

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Activity: asking and answering questions from prompts, controlled and freer practice

Focus

'Were you...?' questions and short answers

Aim

To practice asking and answering 'Were you...?' questions and finding classmates with the same answers.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this 'Were you...?' questions activity, students practice 'Were you...?' questions and short answers by writing their own responses and then mingling to find classmates who responded in the same way.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the students that they are going to practice asking and answering 'Were you...?' questions.

Go through the items on the worksheet and elicit the 'Were you...?' questions the students need to ask, e.g. 'Were you asleep at 6 o'clock this morning?'

Next, students answer the questions and write short answers (Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.) in the column marked 'You'.

Students then go around the class asking and answering the 'Were you...?' questions to find classmates with the same answers.

When a student finds someone with the same answer, the two students write each other's names in the last column.

If a student cannot find anyone with the same answer, they write 'No match' in the last column and move on.

Tell the students that they can only write each person's name once.

This is to encourage the students to speak to as many different partners as possible. If the class is small, allow twice.

When the students have finished, get feedback from the class by asking the students questions with 'Who...?', e.g. 'Who was asleep at 6 o'clock this morning?'

Were you...	You	Find someone with the same answer
asleep at 6 o'clock this morning?		
hungry this morning?		
at home yesterday afternoon?		
in class at 9 o'clock this morning?		
busy last week?		
on the bus at 8 o'clock this morning?		
happy yesterday?		
at the park last weekend?		
tired yesterday morning?		
at a restaurant last night?		
in bed at 11 o'clock last night?		
sick last week?		
with friends last weekend?		
at the cinema last weekend?		
at the supermarket yesterday?		