

Activity Type

Speaking activity

Language Focus

Past simple 'Wh' questions and answers

Past simple regular and irregular verbs

Aim

To ask past simple 'Wh' questions that will elicit a response with a specific verb.

Preparation

Make two copies of the worksheet.

Level

Intermediate

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

Here is an engaging speaking game to help students practice asking and answering past simple 'Wh' questions.

Procedure

Choose two team leaders and give each leader a copy of the worksheet.

Have the leaders stand at opposite sides of the room with the rest of the class in the middle.

Toss a coin to see which team leader will start the game.

The winner of the toss secretly chooses a verb from the list on their worksheet and shows it to the teacher.

The leader then thinks of a past simple 'Wh' question that will elicit a response using the chosen verb. The question is not allowed to contain any form of that verb.

The leader then asks the question to one of the students in the middle of the class.

If the student answers using the verb in the past simple tense, the student comes over to the leader and joins their team.

Both leaders then cross off the verb from their worksheets.

This student becomes the new leader. The new and old leaders then work together to think of the next question.

The teams take it in turns to play until there are no more students left in the middle of the room.

The team with the most members at the end of the game wins.

Example:

A leader chooses the verb 'drove'.

The leader calls on Darren and asks, "Darren, how did you get to class today?"

If Darren replies with a sentence containing 'drove', e.g. 'I drove my car', he joins the leader's team.

If he replies with a different verb, e.g. 'I walked to class' or if he uses the wrong tense, he has to stay in the middle of the room. The other team then asks a question and so on.

Past Simple Verbs

flew

sang

bought

saw

won

lost

told

lied

ran

left

came

finished

called

brushed

drank

went

read

lent

wrote

forgot

rode

took

sent

gave

laughed

borrowed

followed

slipped

chased

licked

ate

washed

watched

made

rang

broke

opened

closed

stopped

found

asked

sat

slept

waited

fell