

Activity Type

Miming, writing and speaking activity

Focus

Past continuous

Aim

To say what people were doing using the past continuous.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards and cut as indicated. Each student should have one card.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

Here is an entertaining past continuous game for students to play in class.

Procedure

Begin by doing a quick TPR (Total Physical Response) activity to review the language on the cards.

Tell the class to stand up. Shout out one of the activities on the cards. All the students then do the mime or action. Repeat until you have covered all the activities. You could also play a game of 'Simon Says' to introduce the activities on the cards.

Next, divide the students into four teams.

Tell the students that they are going to play a game to practice the past continuous tense to describe an ongoing action in the past.

Ask one student from the first team to go out of the classroom.

Give each student in the class an activity card.

Tell them that when you say 'go', they should begin miming or doing the action on their card and continue until you say 'stop'.

Say 'go'. When everyone is miming or doing their action, open the door and ask the student outside to come in. Let the actions continue for a few more seconds, then say 'stop'. Ask the student who went out of the class what everybody was doing when he or she came in.

The student scores one point for their team for each correct past continuous sentence, e.g. 'Sofia was dancing. Mark was jumping up and down, etc'.

Then, a student from the second team goes out. Everyone swaps activity cards and the process is repeated. This continues until each team has had a chance to play.

For the final round, collect in the cards and redistribute them. Have everyone do the actions on their cards again without anyone leaving the room. Then, tell the teams that they must now try to remember and write down what the students in the other teams were doing.

When the teams have finished writing, ask them to swap papers with another team and go through all the sentences. Teams score one point for each correct sentence. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

What was everybody doing?



touch your toes	scratch your head	sleep	read a book
clap your hands	run around the room	sing a song	jump up and down
stand on a chair	draw a picture	juggle	draw on the board
say the alphabet	dance	walk backwards	clean the window
hop on one leg	pat your head and rub your stomach	walk around the room	wave to someone
nod your head	cry	spin around	stand up
try to catch a fly	sit on the floor	laugh	run around