

What were you doing?

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking
Game: memorising,
forming sentences

Focus

Past continuous with
'while'

Aim

To practice making past
continuous sentences
with 'while' to describe
simultaneous actions at a
specific time in the past.

Preparation

None

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this past continuous game, students use the word 'while' and the past continuous to make sentences about what they and others were doing at certain times in the past.

Procedure

Have the students sit in a circle.

Choose a time in the past and tell the students to think about what they were doing at that time, e.g. 8 o'clock last night.

One student begins by telling the class what they were doing at that time by making a past continuous sentence, e.g. 'I was watching a movie at 8 o'clock last night.'

The next student then repeats the previous student's sentence using 'while' and adds what they were doing, e.g. 'While Tom was watching a movie, I was playing a game on my phone.'

Then, each student in turn repeats all the previous students' sentences using 'while' and adds their own sentence, e.g. 'While Tom was watching a movie, Derek was playing a game on his phone, and I was waiting for a bus.'

If a student can't remember the chain of previous sentences or makes a grammar mistake, they are out of that round.

The round finishes when the turn comes back around to the first student.

Students score one point if they are still in when the round ends.

Play several rounds using different times in the past, starting with a different student each time.

The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.