

Activity Type

Reading, listening and speaking activity, group work

Focus

Past and present modal verbs of deduction

Aim

To discuss and answer questions about other students using past and present modal verbs of deduction.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of three.

Level

Intermediate (A2-B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

This communicative modals of deductions activity helps students to practice past and present modals of deduction.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three. If you have a large class, groups of four or five are also possible.

Give each group a copy of the worksheet.

Explain that the students are going to discuss and answer questions about their classmates using past and present modal verbs of deduction.

Demonstrate the activity by reading the first question to the class, i.e. 'You see a classmate chatting on their phone. Who is it?'

Elicit possible answers to the question using past and present modal verbs of deduction. Have the students justify their answers.

Examples:

It could be Jin as he is always using his phone.

It can't have been me, because I turn my phone off before class.

It might have been Ayumi because she loves chatting.

The groups then discuss each question in turn on the worksheet and base their answers on what they know about their classmates.

Each group then comes to a consensus and writes down the name of one student.

When everyone has finished, go through each question and elicit an answer from each group along with a justification.

Ask the named people if they agree that it could be or could have been them and ask if the justification is valid.

If yes, the groups that named the person score one point.

The group with the most points at the end of the activity is the winner.

Discuss and answer the questions about your classmates using past and present modal verbs of deduction (i.e. must, could, might, may, and can't). Base your answers on what you know about the other students in the class.

Questions	Name
1. You see a student chatting on their phone. Who is it?	
2. You hear someone singing outside the classroom door. Who is it?	
3. A classmate lost their pen and wants to borrow yours. Who is it?	
4. Someone isn't in class today. Who is it?	
5. You hear a student telling a joke. Who is it?	
6. You see a classmate doing their homework five minutes before class. Who is it?	
7. There is someone who can't stop talking at the back of the class. Who is it?	
8. You see a snack wrapper on the floor. Whose is it?	
9. You hear a classmate listening to music. Who is it?	
10. You see a person be the first to put up their hand and answer the teacher's question? Who is it?	
11. A student enters the class ten minutes late. Who is it?	
12. You hear someone give an excuse for not doing their homework. Who is it?	
13. You see a beautiful drawing on a student's desk. Who drew it?	
14. A classmate has bought a new mobile phone. Who is it?	
15. A student is sleeping at their desk. Who is it?	
16. You see a classmate playing a game on their phone. Who is it?	