

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, group work

Focus

Past simple affirmative sentences

Aim

To make past simple affirmative sentences from pictures using the verbs: play, go, do, have, get, read, take.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two sets of cards for each group of four and cut as indicated.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple speaking activity, students play a card game where they use past simple affirmative sentences and picture cards to talk about what they did yesterday.

Procedure

Begin the activity by asking the class what they did yesterday. Write the students' answers on the board and highlight the use of the past simple.

Explain that the students are going to play a past simple card game where they talk about what they did yesterday using picture cards. Tell the students that the aim of the game is to be the first student to lay down all their picture cards by correctly using the past simple to talk about the action on each card.

Divide the class into groups of four. If you have some students left over, groups of five are also possible. Give each group both sets of picture cards. Tell the students to shuffle the cards and then deal them out evenly.

One student goes first and lays down a picture card. The student then makes a past simple affirmative sentence about the action shown on the card, e.g. 'Yesterday, I went cycling'.

The next student must now lay down either another 'I went...' card (e.g. 'Yesterday, I went shopping'.) or a 'Restart' card which enables the student to change the verb into something else, e.g. 'Yesterday, I did my homework'.

When a student plays a restart card, the student puts down the restart card followed by their chosen picture card. If a student is unable to make a sentence or use a restart card, they miss a turn.

This process continues until one of the students has laid down all their cards. That student wins the game. Have the students play several rounds to practice talking about all the activities and actions in the past simple.

Possible answers:

played tennis, football, badminton, basketball, the guitar, video games

went camping, swimming, shopping, jogging, to school, cycling, climbing

did my homework, the washing up, aerobics, the gardening, yoga, some exercise

had a shower, a drink, lunch

got dressed/ready, up, angry

read a book, a newspaper

took a photograph, a nap, a selfie



