

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, group work

Language Focus

Past simple and present perfect

Aim

To practice the past simple and present perfect by playing a true or false game about experiences.

Preparation

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

Level

Pre-intermediate

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging past simple vs. present perfect activity, students play a true or false game where they make present perfect statements and ask and answer 'Wh' questions in the past simple.

Procedure

Begin the activity by reviewing the activities on the cards with the class.

Next, demonstrate the activity to the class. Tell the students that you have done one of the activities on the cards by making a present perfect statement, e.g. 'I have been hang gliding'.

Ask the students to find out if you are telling the truth or lying by asking you past simple 'Wh' questions about the details, e.g. 'Where did you go hang gliding?'

After a few questions, ask the students to guess whether it's true or not. Then, reveal the answer.

After that, divide the students into groups of four.

Give each group a set of cards. Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face down in a pile on the table. Groups will also need a pen and paper for keeping score.

Students then take it in turns to pick up a card and make a present perfect statement, telling the rest of the group they have done the activity on the card, regardless of whether it's true or not, e.g. 'I have been bungee jumping'.

The group members then ask the student 'Wh' questions in the past simple to find out the details.

After the student has answered a few questions, each group member decides if the student is telling the truth or lying.

The student then reveals the answer. Each group member who guessed correctly scores a point.

Then, the next student picks up a card and so on.

The game continues until all the cards have been used.

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

Afterwards, have a class feedback session and ask the students to tell the class about their group member's experiences using the present perfect and past simple.

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