

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair and group work

Language Focus

Verbs and their opposites

Aim

To practice verbs and their opposites.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Elementary

Time

45 minutes

Introduction

This engaging teaching activity helps to increase students' knowledge of verbs and their opposites.

Procedure

Start the activity by reading out each verb on the worksheet and eliciting the verb's meaning from the class.

Next, divide the students into teams of four and give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the teams that you are going to read a verb at random from the worksheet and that the first team to call out the correct opposite verb scores a point.

The winning team can then score an extra point by making an appropriate sentence with the opposite verb.

All the students in the class then write down the opposite verb on their worksheet.

Answer key

lose – win	laugh – cry	pass – fail
shout – whisper	give – take	smile – frown
float – sink	import – export	arrive – leave
borrow – lend	add – subtract	spend – save
build – destroy	enter – exit	throw – catch
break – mend	teach – learn	sit – stand
punish – reward	fall – rise	play – work
go – stop	come – go	open – close
exercise – rest	live – die	leave – stay
show – hide	push – pull	grow – shrink

This continues until the worksheet is complete. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Working alone, the students then write ten sentences using a different verb from the worksheet in each sentence, e.g. 'I come to school by car'.

When the students have finished, divide them into pairs and have the students exchange sentences. Next, the students take it in turns to read one of their partner's sentences and then make another sentence using the opposite verb, e.g. 'I go home at 3 o'clock'.

Afterwards, ask the pairs to create a short story using ten verbs from the worksheet. Have the pairs read their stories to the class and give feedback.

Note: This is an editable PDF. To edit the document, select the Edit PDF tool in Acrobat.

lose _____

teach _____

shout _____

fall _____

float _____

come _____

borrow _____

live _____

build _____

push _____

break _____

pass _____

punish _____

smile _____

go _____

arrive _____

exercise _____

spend _____

show _____

throw _____

laugh _____

sit _____

give _____

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open _____

add _____

leave _____

enter _____

grow _____