

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: sentence completion, asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice (group work)

Focus

Third conditional

Aim

To practice forming, asking, and answering third conditional questions about hypothetical past situations.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated. You will also need a box for this activity.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this third conditional questions game, students complete conditional sentences about imaginary or unlikely situations in the past. The students then play a game where they race to find out who wrote each sentence by asking third conditional questions.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of cards.

Ask the students to deal out the cards evenly.

Students then complete the third conditional sentences on their cards any way they like, without writing their names on the cards or letting anyone see what they are writing.

Students now work together as a class. Put a box in the middle of the room, and ask all the students to fold up their completed sentences and put them in the box.

Demonstrate the activity by taking a card from the box and reading the sentence aloud, e.g. 'If I had gone on holiday last week, I would have gone to the beach.'

Elicit the third conditional question you need to ask to find out who wrote the sentence, i.e. 'If you had gone on holiday last week, would you have gone to the beach?'

Ask students the question until you find the person who wrote the sentence. Make it clear that even though students may answer yes to the question, you are looking for the person who wrote it.

If a student answers yes but didn't write the sentence, they reply 'Yes, I would, but I didn't write the sentence.'

Now, ask the students to stand up and take one card each from the box. If they choose their own sentence, they should put it back and take another one.

Students then go around the class asking their third conditional questions to find out who wrote the sentence on their card. When a student finds the person who wrote the sentence, they write the person's name on the card, keep it, and take another card from the box.

Students repeat the activity until there are no sentences left in the box. The student with the most sentences at the end of the game wins. Afterwards, ask students to report back to the class on what they found out during the game.



If I had gone on holiday last week, I would have

If I had gone to bed late last night, I would have

If I had found a lot of money on my way to class today, I would have

If I hadn't decided to learn English, I would have

If I had followed my parents' advice, I would have

If I had met my great-great-grandparents, I would have

If I had studied harder, I would have

If I had been born a member of the opposite sex, I would have

If I hadn't come here today, I would have

If I had never met my best friend, I would have

If I had been born into a famous family, I would have

If I had saved more money, I would have