

Activity Type

Grammar, Vocabulary and Speaking Game: reforming sentences, controlled and freer practice (pair work)

Focus

Noun phrases

Aim

To practice changing verb phrases in sentences to noun phrases.

Preparation

Make one copy of the game board and cards for each pair of students and cut the cards out as indicated. Also, provide two counters for each pair.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this noun phrases game, students practice changing verb phrases in sentences to noun phrases.

Procedure

Begin by writing the following sentence on the board:

The little girl was obviously pleased to receive a new bicycle for Christmas.

Ask the students to identify the verb phrase in the sentence (was obviously pleased).

Then, ask the students to change the verb phrase to a noun phrase (pleasure was obvious) and reform the sentence, e.g. 'The little girl's pleasure at receiving a new bicycle for Christmas was obvious.'

If the students need more practice, repeat with other sentences.

Next, explain that the students are going to play a game in which the aim is to race to the other side of a game board by changing verb phrases in sentences to noun phrases.

Divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair a copy of the game board, a set of cards, and two counters.

Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face-down in a pile on the table.

Students then place their counters on the start square.

Next, students take turns picking up a card and reading out the top sentence on the card to the other student.

The other student then tries to change the sentence by replacing the verb phrase with a noun phrase, retaining the original meaning.

If the student successfully manages to say the sentence written at the bottom of the card or a similarly accurate sentence, they move their counter ahead one space diagonally.

If the student is unable to form a correct sentence, they stay where they are.

The two students then swap roles.

The first student to reach the finish wins the game.



He responded to my email promptly and politely.

His response to my email was prompt and polite.

The shop closed down, which saddened the villagers.

The closure of the shop saddened the villagers.

Lee has been trying to consume less meat.

Lee has been trying to reduce his consumption of meat.

Our colleague was dismissed, which surprised us all.

The dismissal of our colleague surprised us all.

It was apparent to everyone that the child was bored.

The child's boredom was apparent to everyone.

The president resigned, which surprised the nation.

The resignation of the president surprised the nation.

It was evident to us all that the animal was distressed.

The animal's distress was evident to us all.

The toddler can read, which is very impressive.

The toddler's ability to read is very impressive.

The student arrived late and disrupted the lesson.

The student's late arrival disrupted the lesson.

He knows a lot about computers, which will prove useful in his job hunt.

His knowledge of computers will prove useful in his job hunt.

The flight was cancelled, which angered the passengers.

The cancellation of the flight angered the passengers.

It was obvious to everyone that the patient was confused.

The patient's confusion was obvious to every one.

Lee was jealous of his baby sister, which was understandable.

Lee's jealousy of his baby sister was understandable.

My father always treated his employees fairly.

My father's treatment of his employees was always fair.

They decided to cancel the match, which disappointed the children.

Their decision to cancel the match disappointed the children.

The boy reacted severely to the medication.

The boy's reaction to the medication was severe.

He refused the generous offer, which surprised us.

His refusal of the generous offer surprised us.

Lia failed her exam, which angered her father.

Lia's failure of her exam angered her father.

The boy behaved badly and was punished.

The boy was punished for his bad behaviour.

The weather changed and damaged our crops.

The change in weather caused damage to our crops.

The lawyer argued his point quite convincingly.

The lawyer's argument of his point was quite convincing.

The temperature rose and affected the animals.

The rise in temperature affected the animals.

The doctor explained the procedure quite thoroughly.

The doctor's explanation of the procedure was quite thorough.

She reacted quite irrationally to my comment.

Her reaction to my comment was quite irrational.

Finish					
Start					