

Activity Type

Grammar Activity: error correction, betting

Focus

Articles (*a, an, the, no article*)

Aim

To find and correct mistakes in sentences that contain articles.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this articles error correction activity, students find and correct mistakes in sentences that contain articles.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

First, students read the sentences on the worksheet, some of which contain errors in the use of articles (*a, an, the, no article*).

If students think a sentence is right, they put a tick in the second column of the worksheet. If students think a sentence is wrong, they correct the mistake and put a cross.

Next, students bet on their answers, depending on how confident they are about each decision.

Students bet between 10 and 100 points for each statement, writing each bet in the 'bet' column.

Afterwards, go through the sentences as a class and elicit the correct answers from the students. Students mark the answer with a tick or cross in the 'correct answer' column.

If the students guessed correctly, they transfer the amount written in the 'bet' column to the 'win' column. If they guessed incorrectly, they transfer the amount to the 'lose' column.

Finally, students subtract the amount lost from the amount won to give a grand total. The student with the highest grand total is the winner.

Answer Key

1. Incorrect: an easy sentence ('an' is used with a vowel sound)
2. Incorrect: a London bank
3. Incorrect: an old house
4. Correct
5. Incorrect: Gold is yellow. (articles are not used with material nouns)
6. Incorrect: the dentist
7. Correct: ('the' is used in measuring expressions beginning with by)
8. Correct
9. Incorrect: the Netherlands ('the' is used with plural countries)
10. Incorrect: the best player
11. Incorrect: the boys, the girls
12. Correct
13. Incorrect: an hour
14. Incorrect: the floor

Sentences	Right or wrong?	Bet	Correct answer	Win	Lose
1. This is not the easy sentence.					
2. My brother has just got a job in the London bank.					
3. Monica lives in a old house.					
4. Last Friday, my friend took me to a nice restaurant.					
5. The gold is yellow.					
6. How often do you go to a dentist?					
7. Do you sell eggs by the kilo or by the dozen?					
8. I live in a small apartment in the suburbs.					
9. Holland is also known as Netherlands.					
10. He is best player in the team.					
11. I think boys in my class are lazier than girls.					
12. I would love to travel to the moon.					
13. There are sixty minutes in a hour.					
14. There were no chairs, so we had to sit on a floor.					



Total =

Grand Total =