

How well do you know your partner?

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking
Activity: guessing,
sentence completion,
asking and answering
questions from prompts
(pair work)

Focus

Past simple and present
perfect

Aim

To practice past simple
and present perfect
sentences and questions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
worksheet for each
student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this fun past simple vs. present perfect activity, students see how well they know a partner by completing sentences about them in the past simple and present perfect and then verifying the information by asking and answering questions.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs. Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the students that they are going to see how well they know their partner by completing sentences about them in the past simple or present perfect.

Demonstrate the activity by writing the first two sentences from the worksheet on the board. Invite students to complete the two sentences using your name with information that they think is true for you.

Example:

1. James started learning English in 1990.
2. James has had his mobile phone for six months.

Next, elicit the questions the students need to ask you to find out if their sentences are correct, i.e. 'When did you start learning English?' and 'How long have you had your mobile phone?'

Then, answer the questions to see if the students' sentences are correct or not.

Working alone, students then complete the sentences about their partner in the past simple or present perfect using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Students do this without conferring with their partner.

Next, students prepare the questions they need to ask to verify the information. Go around helping the students as necessary.

After that, students find out how many of their sentences are right by taking it in turns to ask and answer questions in the past simple or present perfect.

Students score themselves one point for each correct sentence.

The student with the highest score wins.

Afterwards, get feedback from the students to see how well they know their partner and find out who got the highest score.

How well do you know your partner?

A. Complete the sentences about your partner in the past simple or present perfect using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. (start) learning English in
2. (have) his/her mobile phone for
3. (eat) for dinner last night.
4. (know) his/her best friend for
5. (come) to class by/on
6. (be) awake since
7. (go) to last weekend.
8. (live) in his/her current house/apartment for
9. (clean) his/her bedroom last
10. (not buy) any new clothes since
11. (drink) coffee
12. (live) in this city/town for
13. (get) his/her hair cut last
14. (not be) on holiday for
15. (do) some exercise last

B. Now, find out how many of your sentences are right by taking it in turns to ask and answer questions in the past simple or present perfect.

Examples:

