

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Activity: running dictation, forming, asking and answering questions from prompts, table completion (pair and group work)

Focus

Past simple *Wh* questions

Holiday vocabulary

Aim

To dictate a past simple text and use past simple *Wh* questions to talk about your last holiday.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student and one copy of the running dictation text for the class.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

45 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple questions activity, students take part in a running dictation about someone's holiday. The students then ask and answer past simple *Wh* questions about their last holiday.

Procedure

Stick the running dictation text on a wall outside the classroom.

Put the students into pairs. One student is the 'writer', and the other is the 'reader'. Explain to the students that the readers are going to dictate a text to their partner (the writer).

The readers stand up, go to the text, read a sentence or two, and then return and dictate what they read to their partner, who writes it down. This continues until the text has been fully dictated.

When the students have finished, the readers sit down with their partner to check their text.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet. Tell the students to complete the past simple questions using the prompts.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. When did you go on holiday?
2. Where did you go?
3. How did you travel there?
4. Who did you go with?
5. Where did you stay?
6. How long did you stay there?
7. What did you do?
8. Did you have fun?

Students then use the eight questions to write notes about their own holiday in the column marked 'You'.

After that, students ask three classmates about their last holiday and complete the other columns.

As a follow-up, students write a short paragraph about their last holiday using the past simple.



Running Dictation Text

Last summer, I went to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil with my best friend, James. We travelled there by airplane and stayed at a hotel near Copacabana Beach for two weeks. Every day, I went swimming and surfing in the sea. My friend James sunbathed on the beach. In the evenings, we drank beer and watched the sunset. After dinner, we went dancing in the night clubs. We both had a great time. We plan to go back to Brazil next year.

A. Use the prompts to create past simple questions for the answers below.

Example:

1. When / go on holiday?

Q: *When did you go on holiday?* A: I went on holiday last summer.

2. Where / go?

Q: A: I went to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

3. How / travel there?

Q: A: I travelled there by airplane.

4. Who / go with?

Q: A: I went with my best friend.

5. Where / stay?

Q: A: I stayed in a hotel.



6. How long / stay there?

Q: A: I stayed there for 2 weeks.

7. What / do?

Q: A: I went swimming and surfing.

8. have fun?

Q: A: Yes, I did. It was awesome.

B. Now, answer the eight questions about your last holiday and write the answers in the column marked 'You'. Then, ask three other students about their last holiday and complete the other columns in the chart.

Questions	You			
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				