Oh, really?

Activity Type

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

Focus

Past simple affirmative sentences

When did you last...? questions

Time expressions

Aim

To make believable past simple sentences with a variety of time expressions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the picture cards and time expression cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated. Keep the two sets of cards separate.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this past simple game, students try to make believable past simple sentences with a variety of time expressions.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of picture cards and time expression cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the time expression cards and deal them out evenly and to shuffle the picture cards and place them face-down in a pile on the desk.

One student goes first by picking up the top picture card from the pile.

The student asks the student on their right a *When did you last...?* question based on the picture, e.g. 'When did you last go shopping?'

The other student looks at their time expression cards and tries to make a believable past simple sentence using one of the time expressions, e.g. 'I went shopping two days ago'.

The group members then decide if the answer is acceptable or not.

If the answer is believable, the student discards their time expression card.

If the answer is unlikely, e.g. 'I went shopping last summer', the group members challenge the student.

The student then chooses to either tell the truth and keep the time expression card or try to convince the group that the answer is true. The final decision lies with the group.

It's then the next student's turn to pick up a picture card and so on.

The first student to get rid of all their time expression cards wins the game.

Afterwards, have the students reshuffle the cards and play again.

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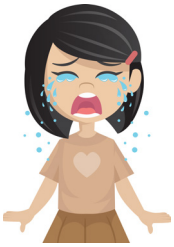

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ten minutes ago	half an hour ago	an hour ago	two hours ago
this morning	last night	yesterday	yesterday afternoon
the day before yesterday	two days ago	three days ago	on Saturday morning
last weekend	last Friday	last week	two weeks ago
last month	two months ago	three months ago	last summer
last year	two years ago	three years ago	five years ago

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