

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: information gap, asking and answering questions from prompts, controlled and freer practice (pair work)

Focus

Present continuous for future plans

Aim

To ask and answer questions about future plans using the present continuous.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is a present continuous activity to use with your students in class. In the activity, students practice asking and answering questions about future plans.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (Student A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Tell the students not to show their worksheet to their partner.

Draw the students' attention to the diary on the worksheet.

Tell the students that the diary shows their plans for next week and four times when they are free.

Explain that it's the start of the summer holidays and that you need some people to help you prepare for next Sunday evening's summer school fair.

To help decide who will help you, the students play a game where they have to find all their partner's free periods.

Students then take turns asking their partner about their plans for next week using the present continuous, e.g. 'What are you doing on Wednesday afternoon?'

Their partner looks at their diary for that day and time, and replies by making a present continuous sentence, e.g. 'I'm working at the cafe'.

The student then writes their partner's response in the blank diary on their worksheet.

The first student to find all their partner's free periods wins.

The loser has to spend their free time with the other students helping the teacher prepare for the school fair!

Student A

It's the start of the summer holidays, but your teacher needs help to prepare for the summer school fair. The fair is next Sunday night. One of you must help the teacher. Who will it be? To decide, you are going to play a game. In the game, you have to find all four of your partner's free periods for next week.



Take turns asking your partner about their plans for next week.

Example: What are you doing on Wednesday afternoon?

Answer your partner's questions in the present continuous, e.g. I'm working at the cafe.

The first person to find all four of their partner's free periods wins! The loser must help the teacher prepare for the school fair.

Your diary for next week. Do not show it to Student B!

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning	meet James for coffee	do school project	free time	go to the beach	clean the house	free time	play tennis
Afternoon	go shopping	go to the zoo	work at the cafe		free time	study English	do homework
Evening	free time	watch football	go to the gym	travel home	go to Tom's party	visit Sam	go to the school fair

Write Student B's plans in the diary below.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

Student B

It's the start of the summer holidays, but your teacher needs help to prepare for the summer school fair. The fair is next Sunday night. One of you must help the teacher. Who will it be? To decide, you are going to play a game. In the game, you have to find all four of your partner's free periods for next week.



Take turns asking your partner about their plans for next week.

Example: What are you doing on Wednesday afternoon?

Answer your partner's questions in the present continuous, e.g. I'm studying Spanish.

The first person to find all four of their partner's free periods wins! The loser must help the teacher prepare for the school fair.

Your diary for next week. Do not show it to Student A.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning	go to the dentist	go to the library	play volleyball	go to the market	free time	go camping	go cycling
Afternoon	study English	visit brother	study Spanish	free time	bake a cake		free time
Evening	play basketball	free time	do homework	go to cooking class	meet Amy		go to the school fair

Write Student A's plans in the diary below.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							