

Activity Type

Matching, reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Past simple irregular verbs

Aim

To match present and past simple irregular verbs together and then ask and answer past simple questions with the verbs.

Preparation

Make one copy of the irregular verb cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated. Also, make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Elementary

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this productive teaching activity, students play a pelmanism game where they match present and past simple irregular verbs together. Students then practice asking and answering past simple questions with the verbs.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a set of irregular verb cards. Tell the students to shuffle the cards and spread them out face down on the desk.

The students then play a pelmanism game where they take it in turns to turn over two cards. If a student turns over a matching pair of present and past simple irregular verbs, they keep the two cards and have another turn.

If the cards do not match, the student turns them back over, keeping them in the same place.

This continues until all the cards have been matched. The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the students to write short answers to the questions in the squares in a random order.

When the students have finished writing their answers, they cut the worksheet as indicated.

Students then work with a new partner.

The students swap their answer sheets and take it in turns to guess why their partner has written the words or phrases in the squares. They do this by asking and answering past simple questions.

Example:

Student A has written the word 'a bag' in one of the squares.

Student B: Did you bring a bag to class today?

Student A: No, I didn't.

Student B: Did you buy a bag yesterday?

Student A: Yes, I did. I bought a new sports bag.

Once the student has discovered what the answer relates to, the answer is crossed off.

Encourage the students to explain their answers and to find out more information by asking follow-up questions.

When the students have finished, they report back their findings to the class.

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Irregular Verb Cards

bring	brought	sing	sang
buy	bought	sleep	slept
dream	dreamt	spend	spent
fall	fell	stand	stood
feel	felt	think	thought
fly	flew	read	read
lose	lost	run	ran
teach	taught	wear	wore

Write short answers to the following questions. Write your answers in a random order in the squares below.

- something you brought to class today
- something you bought yesterday
- what you dreamt about last night
- the last time you fell over
- how you felt at the beginning of the lesson
- the last time you flew somewhere
- the last thing you lost
- something your teacher taught you in the last lesson
- the last time you sang
- the last time you slept for less than six hours
- how much money you spent yesterday
- the last time you stood somewhere for a long time
- something you thought was frightening when you were a child
- the last thing you read
- the last time you ran somewhere
- something you wore that you really liked



Answer Sheet
