

Activity Type

Writing and speaking activity

Language Focus

Past continuous

Aim

To say what people were doing using the past continuous.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards and cut as indicated. Each student should have one card.

Level

Elementary

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

Here is an entertaining miming game to help students practice the past continuous tense.

Procedure

Begin by doing a quick TPR (Total Physical Response) activity to review the language on the cards.

Tell the class to stand up. Shout out one of the activities on the cards. All the students then do the mime or action. Repeat until you have covered all the activities. You could also play a game of 'Simon Says' to introduce the activities on the cards.

Next, divide the students into four teams.

Tell the students that they are going to play a game to practice the past continuous tense to describe an ongoing action in the past.

Next, ask one student from the first team to go out of the classroom.

Give each student in the class an activity card.

Tell them that when you say 'go', they should begin miming or doing the action on their card and continue until you say 'stop'.

Say 'go'. When everyone is miming or doing their action, open the door and ask the student outside to come in.

Let the actions continue for 15 seconds, then say 'stop'.

Ask the student who went out of the class what everyone was doing when he or she came in.

The student scores one point for each correct past continuous sentence, e.g. 'Sofia was dancing. Mark was jumping up and down, etc'.

Then a student from the second team goes out. Everyone swaps activity cards and the process is repeated.

Play a few rounds to see which team gets the highest score.

For the final round, you leave the classroom and when you come back in, tell the class that each team must now try to remember and write down what the students in the other teams were doing.

When the teams have finished writing, ask them to swap papers with another team and go through all the sentences.

Teams score one point for each correct sentence.

Add the scores to the previous rounds to find the ultimate winning team.



touch your toes	scratch your head	sleep	read a book
clap your hands	run around the room	sing a song	jump up and down
stand on a chair	draw a picture	juggle	draw on the board
say the alphabet	dance	walk backwards	clean the window
hop on one leg	pat your head and rub your stomach	walk around the room	wave to someone
nod your head	cry	spin around	stand up
try to catch a fly	sit on the floor	laugh	run around