

### Activity Type

Speaking activity, group work

### Language Focus

Past simple affirmative sentences

### Aim

To make true past simple affirmative sentences using time expressions and verbs.

### Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of four and cut the cards out as indicated. Separate the cards into two piles (time expression cards and verb cards).

### Level

Elementary

### Time

25 minutes

### Introduction

Here is a challenging game to help students practice past simple affirmative sentences and sentence formation.

### Procedure

Split the class into groups of four.

Explain that the students are going to practice making true past simple affirmative sentences about themselves.

Give each group a set of time expression cards and verb cards. Have the students shuffle the two sets separately.

Tell the groups to put the time expression cards face down in a pile on the desk and deal out the verb cards equally. Each player should have six verb cards.

Players take it in turns to turn over a time expression card from the pile and then make a true past simple affirmative sentence using one of the verbs on their cards and the time expression.

If the player constructs a believable past simple sentence, which is agreed on by the other students to be true, the player may discard the verb card.

If the other students think the sentence can't be true, they challenge the player, and he or she has to keep the verb card.

Students can also challenge the player if the sentence is grammatically incorrect or the wrong verb form is used, in which case the player also has to keep the card.

The aim of the game is to be the first player to get rid of all their verb cards.

If all the time expression cards get used up, they can be turned over and used again.

The game is quite easy at first because there is a choice of verbs, but it becomes more challenging to make a meaningful sentence as the game progresses.

## Time Expression Cards

✂	an hour ago	this morning	yesterday	last night
	last week	two weeks ago	last year	two days ago
	last Saturday	last Sunday	in 2013	a week ago
	when I was six	yesterday afternoon	when I was ten	yesterday evening
	five years ago	last summer	a month ago	in 2012
	last winter	a long time ago	ten years ago	last month

## Verb Cards

✂	be	have	go	take
	get	do	leave	start
	see	buy	live	finish
	listen to	watch	meet	learn
	choose	feel	keep	wear
	think	clean	know	like