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Just Imagine



If I'd had time this week, I would have...

If I'd lived before, I would have been...

If I had found a lot of money on my way here today, I would have...

If I hadn't decided to learn English, I would have...

If I had followed my parent's advice, I would have...

If I had met my great-great-grandparents, I would have...

If I had met an alien on my way here today. I would have...

If I had been born a member of the opposite sex, I would have...

If I hadn't come here today, I would have...

If I'd won the lottery recently, I would have...

If I had been born into a famous family, I would have...

If I had gone to a party last night, I would have worn...

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In this writing and speaking activity, students write sentences about imaginary situations in the past. When they have finished, they pick each other's sentences out of a box. Their task is to find out who wrote each sentence by asking questions. For this activity, the students use the third conditional to talk about an imaginary or unlikely situation in the past.

Procedure

Before class, make one copy of the worksheet for each group of three or four students. You will also need a box for this activity.

Choose one of the unfinished sentences from the worksheet and write it on the board. Elicit possible ways of completing the sentence.

Put the students into groups of three or four. Give each group one copy of the worksheet and have the students cut it up into 12 cards as indicated.

Ask the students to spread out the cards, face down and to take three each.

Ask them to complete their three sentences in any way they like. They should not write their names or let the students next to them see what they are writing.

The students now all work together as a class. Put the box in the middle of the room. Ask the students to fold up their completed sentences and put them in the box.

Tell the students that, in a moment, they are all going to stand up, take one sentence each and find out who wrote it. Demonstrate this by taking a piece of paper from the box and reading the sentence out.

Example:

If I'd had time this week, I would have done my homework.

Elicit the question they will need to ask to order to find out who wrote the sentence: If you had time this week, would you have done your homework?

Ask several students the question until you find the person who wrote the sentence. Make it clear that even though students may answer yes to the question, you are looking for the person who wrote it, and may need to ask, "Did you write this sentence?"

Now ask the students to stand up and take one card each from the box. If they choose their own sentence, they should put it back and take another one.

They are now ready to go around the class asking questions. All the students in the class do this simultaneously. When they find the person who wrote the sentence, they should write the person's name on the piece of paper, keep it, and take another one from the box.

The students repeat the activity until there are no sentences left in the box. The student with the most sentences is the winner.

Ask the students to take it in turns to report back to the class or group on what they found out during the activity.