

Title of the activity	
Puzzle: learning the Past Simple.	
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Tale <i>The honest woodcutter</i>	
Age group	
<input type="checkbox"/> From 3-6 years old <input type="checkbox"/> From 7-10 years old <input type="checkbox"/> From 11-14 years old	
Time	
20 min	
Key Words	
Past simple; task-based; grammar; game.	
Basic competences:	Cognitive Competences:
<input type="checkbox"/> Communicative competence in L1 <input type="checkbox"/> Communicative competence in L2	<p>Students are able to identify the verbs in past simple from the text. They normally associate the past tense with the tense in which a tale is written.</p> <p>Students identify the verbs in affirmative from the ones in negative and interrogative.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematic, technical and scientific competence <input type="checkbox"/> Digital competence	<p>Strategic and instrumental competences:</p> <p>Students have to be quick and skillful while doing the task in order to win the competition. Students have to use inductive reasoning to infer the rules of the past simple (affirmative) from the examples given.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning to learn <input type="checkbox"/> Civic and social competence <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneur sense and initiative (professional competences) <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural sense and expression	<p>Attitudinal competences:</p> <p>The fact of learning a grammatical point by doing a task in groups, which in this case consists of arranging verbs in a grid, plus the added sense of competition will increase students' motivation, so they will manage to be the quickest ones in finishing. In addition, the fact of working in groups will let them experiment cooperation, so the members of the same group will have the sense of sharing a common purpose: do their best to be the winners.</p>
Expected Results	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will have fun because this is not the traditional way of learning grammar. - The fact of having to accomplish a task as a competition will motivate students, since they will focus on the task and forget that they are really learning grammar. - By working in teams, students will have a sense of cooperation which is interesting because what one may not know, another student in the group may know. - The inductive process followed in this activity will give students an active role in their learning process, since they are the ones in inferring the rules, rather than the teacher explaining it as usual. - Students are expected to communicate with the rest of the group in order to accomplish the task. 	
Action protocol :	

Activity 1: PRE-TASK (3 min)

Before reading the tale, students react to the title 'The honest woodcutter':

- What does the title suggest to you?
- Do you know what a woodcutter is?
- In which verbal tense do you think that the tale will be narrated? Why?

Activity 2: READING THE TALE (5 min):

Students read aloud the tale (two sentences each one) and they react to the tale:

- Could you explain the moral lying behind the story?
- Concerning the tenses, which is the one which predominates? Does it match your previous hypothesis?
- Mainly, in which form do they appear: affirmative, negative or interrogative?

Activity 3...: TASK (10 min)

The class must be divided into two groups (around 16 members each one). We're going to work with all the verbs in past simple (affirmative) which appear in the tale. Each group will be given 45 cards which contain verbs in the past simple from the tale, their correspondent form in infinitive and the meaning. Each group must arrange and fill a blank grid with three columns: the first one will contain the infinitives, the second one will contain their equivalents in the past simple, and the third one will contain the meaning (in the infinitive form). Students will have to discuss as a group to arrange all the cards.

This is a competition, so the quickest group in finishing the activity correctly will win. Nevertheless, the game does not finish until both grids are complete correctly. Then check.

Activity 4: POST-TASK (5 MIN)

Once that the students have their grids complete correctly, the next step will be discussing in groups which are the rules to form the Past Simple (affirmative). Then they share their findings with the rest of the class.

Materials :

- * Text of the tale (students read it from the screen)
- * Verb cards.
- * Grids to be completed.

Variations of the activity

Another possibility to carry out this activity could be the following: instead of dividing the class in groups, each student is given a card -this time there wouldn't be cards with meaning, but just infinitive and past simple cards- so a half of the class would have a card with an infinitive whereas the other half would have the verbs in past simple. Their mission is to start moving around the class and speaking with the other classmates in order to find their correspondent infinitive or past simple form. Once the pairs are found, they shall discuss the meaning of the verb they have. Finally, all of them share with the rest of the class their findings.

Evaluation of the activity

This activity will be evaluated by direct observation.