Yesterday

Topic
Yesterday

Aims
• To revise ‘Wh’ question forms in the past
• To develop learners’ speaking skills

Age group
Teens

Level
B1

Time
60 minutes

Materials
• Yesterday student worksheet

Introduction
This lesson students practise forming, asking and answering ‘wh’ questions in the past tense. They play two games and do a mingling activity.

Procedure
1. Lead-in (5-10 minutes)
   • Write these jumbled up questions on the board:
     / today / did / breakfast / for / What / have / you /?
     / eat / did / yesterday / Where / you / lunch /?
     / night / bed / did / time / last / go / What / you / to /?
   • Students order the words and write the three questions.
• Answers:
  What did you have for breakfast today?
  Where did you eat lunch yesterday?
  What time did you go to bed last night?

2. Task 1: Guess the question (15 minutes)

- Put students into pairs; A and B. Give Students A a copy of Task 1A and give students B a copy of Task 1B.
- Students read their five questions and write their answers. They must not show their partner their worksheet.
- Student A tells student B their answer for question 1. Student B tries to guess the original question. Then students exchange roles and repeat the activity. For question 2, student B tells student A their answer first. Students guess each other’s questions, taking turns to go first each time. Monitor students and encourage them to help each other with guesses.

3. Task 2: Danny’s day (10-15 minutes)

- Students do a mingling activity. Give each student a copy of Task 2 (A).
- Cut up 1 copy of Task 2 (B) into 20 separate strips. Share the strips out between the students.
- Students complete the information on Task 2 (A), using the information on their slip(s) of paper.
- Students mingle, asking and answering questions to complete Task 2 (A) with information about Danny’s day.
- Monitor students to make sure they are formulating the past tense questions correctly

4. Task 3: The 'yesterday' game (10-15 minutes)

- Demonstrate the game with the whole class. On the board write ‘yesterday’. Explain that you are going to tell the students how you spent yesterday. Your objective is to arrive at bed time. The objective of your opponent (the class) is to stop you from arriving at bed time by interrupting you politely to ask questions (using past tenses). Elicit a few examples of the types of questions students can ask. Write them on the board.

  E.g.

- You have a limit of three minutes. Nominate a student to keep a track of the
time. Then begin.

E.g.

Teacher: I had breakfast and …

Student: Excuse me, but what did you have for breakfast?

Teacher: Actually, I had cereals.

Student: Did you have sugar on your cornflakes?

Teacher: Yes, I did.

Student: Where did you buy the cornflakes?

Stop after three minutes and check how far into yesterday you were able to describe.

• Put students into groups of four to play the game. Students take turns to describe what they did yesterday. The other students interrupt politely to ask questions. Tell students when to start and stop. The winner in each group is the student who gets to the latest time yesterday.

Contributed by

Katherine Bilsborough