

Holiday activities by Shala Barczewska

Age: Adults, young adults
Level: Intermediate +
Time: 10-30 mins
Aim: To review vocabulary for holiday activities; to encourage students to get to know each other; to talk about past events; higher levels can include a review of third conditionals/regrets.

Key skills: Speaking

Materials: One set of cut-up cards per student

Optional materials: (For lower levels) one copy of the *Questions and answers* sheet per pair; (for more advanced levels) one copy of the *Regrets* sheet per pair; one copy of the *Survey* form per student

Preparation

Copy and cut up one set of cards for each student. For organizational purposes, it is best to have each copy on a different piece of paper. (Alternatively, each student could receive half of the cards or students can look at the cards in pairs.)

Procedure

1. Pass out one set of cut-up cards to each student.
2. Tell the students to divide the cards into two piles: things they did and things they did not do over the holidays.
3. Ask the students to choose three cards from each pile that they want to talk about.
4. Put the students in pairs and have them talk about the activities on their cards. For lower-level groups, it would be helpful to include some frames for their questions and answers. Pass out a copy of the *Questions and answers* sheet to each pair (or, if you prefer, write the phrases on the board instead). Encourage students to go into detail using *because* and to ask each other questions to get more information.
5. Change partners and repeat.

Possible extensions/adaptations

For more advanced groups

Have each student choose two or three things they wish they had done during the holidays. Review the language of regrets. Hand out one copy of the *Regrets* sheet per pair, or write the phrases on the board. Have students work in pairs as above.

Survey – for increased mingling during the first lesson

For increased mingling, give one cut-up card to each student and tell them they are going to carry out a survey of their classmates. Make copies of the sample survey form for students to use, if you wish.

Past continuous: What was I doing at the weekend?

Have your students imagine they all suffer from amnesia. They each had an exciting weekend, but no one remembers what they were doing. Tape one cut-up card to each student's back or forehead. They have to ask their classmates *yes / no* questions to work out what their weekend activity was.

Of course, this can be modified to practise other verb tenses, but creativity is needed to set an appropriate context.

For organizational purposes, it is best to have each copy on a different piece of paper.



walk in the forest

ride a bike

play tennis

swim in the sea

go canoeing

read a book



fly in a plane

go scuba diving

go mountain climbing

play cards

sing at a campfire

grill sausages

sleep late

eat ice cream

buy clothes

sleep in a tent

watch a play

go to the cinema

learn something new

play video games

watch a sunrise

Questions and answers

questions	answers
So, tell me: what did you do during the holidays?	During the holidays, I _____ (<i>past tense verb</i>) _____.
Did you enjoy _____ (-ing)?	I enjoyed/didn't enjoy it because ...
Who did you do that with/go with?	I went with ...
Why did/didn't you do that?	I chose (not) to do _____ because ...
Will you _____ next year?	I hope (not) to _____ next year because ...

Regrets

questions	answers
What do you regret not doing over the holidays?	I regret not _____ (-ing) _____.
Is there anything you wish you had done over the holidays?	I wish I had _____ because ...
Why didn't you do it?	If I had _____, I would _____ now.
If you had _____, who would you have done it with?	Since I didn't _____, I can't _____ now.
Do you think you will _____ next year?	Next year, I hope to _____.



Did you ...?	classmate						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Yes							
No							
When?	Why not?						
Who with?	Would you like to?						
Did you enjoy it? Why (not)?	Do you plan to do it in the future?						
Will you do it again?	What did you do instead?						