

Verb game by Abigail Kollas

Age:	Children and teenagers
Level:	Intermediate
Time:	30 minutes
Objectives:	To review or practise the past simple and past participle forms of irregular verbs
Key skills:	Writing, speaking
Materials:	Slips of paper, each with the infinitive of an irregular verb written on it (you decide how many verbs and which particular verbs you want your class to practise)

Procedure

- Put the class into two teams.
- Each team chooses a team name. Divide the board in two, and write the team names on the board.
- The teams line up in front of the board, and you explain the game.
 - Student 1 in each team, that is the student at the front of each line, is given one of the slips of paper.
 - They come to the front of the classroom and mime the verb for their team mates.
 - Student 2, the next student in each line, must try to guess the verb. When they think they know what the verb is, they run to the board and write the verb in the infinitive, past simple and past participle on their team's half of the board. Whilst they are writing, nobody in their team is allowed to assist them by calling out.
 - After they have finished writing, student 2 is given another infinitive to act out for their team, while student 1 goes to the back of the line.
 - If a student cannot act out a verb, they can ask for another.
 - The game continues until either all the slips of paper have been used up or you decide it is time to finish.
- Add up the number of infinitives written on each half of the board and multiply that number by three. This is each team's total. Record each total on the relevant team's half of the board.
- At this point, working as a team, the students review what has been written by their team on the board. Tell them that any mistakes either in form or spelling will result in the loss of two points from their team's total. They are allowed to make up to **three** changes to what has been written and must agree as a team what they will be.
- Once the changes have been made, tell the teams they will be checking the other team's side of the board to see if all the forms are written correctly. If they think something is incorrect, they must underline it and write the correct form above it. If they find a mistake in the other team's verbs and write the correct form, they will get an extra two points for their team. However, if they make any mistakes while trying to correct the other team's verbs, they will lose two points from their team's total. Give a set amount of time to make corrections.
- At the end, the students return to their seats. Conduct class feedback. Discuss each verb and any corrections. Where corrections have been made, irregular verb lists in the back of course books can be used to establish the correct form or spelling. Announce the winning team.
- If possible, leave the lists of verbs on the board until about five minutes before the end of the lesson. Erase as many of the forms as you like (focusing especially on those that caused problems).
- Ask students to write down the missing forms on a piece of paper, which can be handed in to you for marking. This way, you can check if individual students are still making mistakes.