

Irregular Past Simple – Boxes Game

Teachers' Notes

Aim of the Game

To win the opportunity to draw a line between two points on the game board by making correct sentences using irregular past simple verb forms and eventually to create boxes. The team that 'finishes' the creation of a box wins that box. The team that has the most boxes at the end of the game is the winner.

Pre Class Preparation

Make an A3 copy of the game board to stick on the whiteboard in class.

Take a copy of the Elementary Irregular Verbs List with you to class.

Procedure

Stick the game board up on the whiteboard or somewhere else where it is visible to the whole class.

Split the class into two teams and get them to choose names or colours for their teams.

Explain or elicit how to play the game. Do some examples with easy verbs at the beginning so that everyone is clear how to play.

Teams take it in turns to try and create a suitable and accurate sentence using the given verb (in the infinitive form) in the past simple. If they create a sentence using the verb correctly, they win the chance to play on the game board. This involves choosing a place to draw a line between two adjacent dots on the board, either horizontally (e.g. from B2 to C2) or vertically (e.g. C3 to C4) but not diagonally.

Teams continue to take turns creating sentences and drawing lines on the board. When a team manages to finish creating a box (e.g. lines B2 to C2, C2 to C3, B2 to B3 and B3 to C3) they win that box for their team. It does not matter who drew the previous lines in creating the box - the team that finishes the box wins it for their team. Write the initial of the team name in the box or shade it in the team's colour to record who won the box.

The game can continue until all possible lines have been drawn, although you may wish to play to a time limit or number of verbs limit to shorten the game considerably.

Count up the number of boxes won by each team - the team with the most boxes are the winners.

Variations

Since the game needs a team to get many answers correct in order to build a worthwhile number of boxes, you may choose to play a single game over a consecutive series of lessons.

The game can also be shortened by using a smaller game board (6 x 6 for example).

Base Infinitive	Past Simple
be	was, were
beat	beat
become	became
begin	began
bend	bent
bet	bet
bite	bit
bleed	bled
blow	blew
break	broke
bring	brought
build	built
burst	burst
buy	bought
catch	caught
choose	chose
come	came
cost	cost
cut	cut
do	did
draw	drew
drive	drove
drink	drank
eat	ate
fall	fell
feed	fed
feel	felt
fight	fought
find	found
fit	fit
fly	flew
forget	forgot
freeze	froze
get	got
give	gave
go	went
grow	grew
hang	hung
hear	heard
hide	hid
hit	hit

hurt	hurt
keep	kept
know	knew
lead	led
leave	left
lend	lent
let	let
lose	lost
make	made
mean	meant
meet	met
pay	paid
put	put
read	read
ride	rode
ring	rang
rise	rose
run	ran
say	said
see	saw
sell	sold
send	sent
set	set
sing	sang
sit	sat
sleep	slept
speak	spoke
spend	spent
stand	stood
steal	stole
stick	stuck
swim	swam
take	took
teach	taught
tell	told
think	thought
throw	threw
wake	woke
wear	wore
win	won
write	wrote

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
2	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
3	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
4	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
5	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
6	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
7	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u
8	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u