

Tell your group

ACTIVITY

Groupwork: speaking

AIM

To play a board game by talking about given topics.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Simple past: regular verbs

VOCABULARY

General

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet (game board) for every three to five students in the class. Provide dice and counters for each group.

TIME

30 minutes

PROCEDURE

- 1 Write the following verbs on the board: *cook, play, work, stay, hate, like, watch, listen, visit, want*. Tell the students that they are going to talk about things that happened to them in the past and explain that these are some of the verbs they will need to use.

Elicit the simple past form of the verbs and make sure the students know how to pronounce them correctly. If necessary, ask them to arrange the verbs under the appropriate sound headings: /d/, /id/, /t/.

- 2 Write the first two topics from the game board on the board:

the last time you cooked a meal

your first job

and tell the students about your own experiences.

For example:

I cooked pasta for my family last night. I don't like cooking very much but it was OK.

My first job was in France. I worked for an international company. I was a secretary.

- 3 Now ask the students to work in groups of three to five and tell them that they are going to talk to their group about similar topics.
- 4 Give one game board, some counters and dice to each group.
- 5 Before the students start playing the game, explain how to play, using the instructions below.
- 6 The students are ready to play the game. While they are playing, be on hand to help with any vocabulary and pronunciation problems the students may have. In particular, make sure they are pronouncing the *-ed* verb endings correctly.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

- 1 Put the game board in the middle of the table.
- 2 All the players put their counters on the square marked START and throw the dice. The first player to throw a six starts the game.
- 3 Player A throws the dice and moves their counter along the board according to the number on the dice.
- 4 Player A then reads the topic on the square the counter has landed on and talks about it for a short time.
- 5 If a player has nothing to say on the topic they have landed on, they are allowed to pass and miss a turn, but they can only do this once in the game.
- 6 The game continues until the first player reaches the square marked FINISH.