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ACTIVITY

Groupwork: speaking

AIM

To play a board game by talking about given topics.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Present perfect simple to talk about an action which happened some time in the past. We are not interested in when the action took place

Present perfect continuous to talk about an action which began in the past and continues up to the present

Past simple to talk about an action which happened at a specific time in the past

VOCABULARY

General

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for every four to six students in the class. Provide dice and counters for each group.

TIME

30 minutes

PROCEDURE

- 1 Ask the students to work in groups of four to six.
- 2 Give one game board, some counters and dice to each group.
- 3 Before the students start playing the game, explain how to play using the instructions below. If you wish, you can photocopy these instructions and distribute a copy to each group, or display a copy on an overhead projector.
- 4 It is important to remind the students that the topics on the game board are written in the present perfect form because they refer to unspecified times in the past. When a student refers to a specific time in the past, they will need to use the simple past form. For example, if the topic on the board is 'a book you've enjoyed', the player might say: *I've enjoyed a lot of books, but the last book I read was Like Water for Chocolate. I thought it was brilliant.* If the topic on the board is 'something dangerous you've done' a student might say: *I've been snowboarding. I went to the Alps last year and tried snowboarding for the first time. It was good fun, but I fell over a lot.*
- 5 The students are ready to play the game. While they are playing, go round to each group and check that they are using the present perfect and past simple forms 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.
- 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.