

14.1

UNIT 14 Prepositions

The preposition contest

Language focus

Prepositions of place
and time

Level

Beginner

Type

Tic-tac-toe

Topic

Open

Interaction

Teams of two to four

Time

15 minutes

Material

Grid and set of cards
(one per group)

Vocabulary

Adverbials of place and time: *at work, home, midday, 8 o'clock, school, night, the City Bank, Harrods, the beach; on December 25th, Sunday, holiday, the wall, my birthday, 5th Avenue, the beach, the second floor, the radio; in my apartment, class, Book 1, New York, July, the morning, the summer, this neighbourhood*

Comments

This game gives beginners an opportunity to practise or review prepositions of place and time. Here, luck plays down the knowledge factor, which motivates weaker learners to participate without fear. The game also encourages cooperation within teams and peer correction across teams.

Language output

My parents are at home now.

My birthday is on May 5th.

Procedures

- Before class, separate one grid (top half) for every two teams. Then, cut out the cards (bottom half) and put them into bags or envelopes, again one set for every two teams.
- In class, review the use of prepositions to form adverbials of time and place, as well as some fixed expressions.
- Divide the class into teams, pair off teams, and hand out the material.
- Playing the game:
 - Objective of the game: to make grammatically correct sentences in order to form a vertical, horizontal or diagonal row of X's or O's (tic-tac-toe).
 - Team A (X) picks a card from the bag or envelope, on which they will find a phrase. Next, they choose a slot in the grid containing the preposition that they think will form a correct adverbial with the phrase on the card. They then make a sentence with the adverbial.
 - If the sentence is judged correct by everyone, team A marks the slot with an X; otherwise, they do not score.
 - Team B (O) proceeds in the same way.
 - The two teams take turns drawing the cards and making sentences. The game will end either when one of the teams does tic-tac-toe, or when all the slots have been taken but neither team has done tic-tac-toe, in which case it is a draw. **Note:** In case a team picks a card for which all the correct prepositions (slots) have been taken, they put it back inside the bag or envelope and draw another one.
 - They may play this game several times. In that case, each team scores one point every time they do tic-tac-toe. When the activity is over, they count their points, and the team with the highest score wins.

Variation

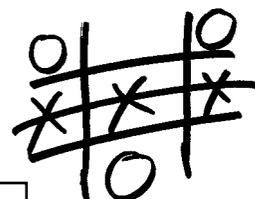
When making your own version, you may want to leave one slot blank for words like *last, next, downtown, here, there, etc.*, which take no preposition.

Note on material

As students will probably be playing several times, either have them mark their slots with different symbols every time they play, or have them copy the grid.

The preposition contest 14.1

GRID



ON	IN	ON
IN	AT	AT
AT	ON	IN

CARDS

work	home	midday	8 o'clock	school
December 25th	Sunday	holiday	the wall	my birthday
my apartment	class	Book 1	New York	July
the morning	the summer	this neighbourhood	night	the City Bank
Harrods	5th Avenue	the beach	the second floor	the radio