

Where were you? Could / Couldn't

by Jill Hadfield

Level: Pre-intermediate

Target age: Secondary / Adult

Time needed: 20 minutes

Grammar objective: to practise *could* and *couldn't* in question, negative and short-answer forms as the past of *can*

Materials: one set of picture cards per group of three or four students; 12 tokens (e.g. penny coins or equivalent) per group plus one extra (optional)

Summary: a guessing game for small groups

Before the lesson

Cut up the picture cards.

Procedure

- Give each group of three or four students a set of cards and ask them to place them face down in the middle of the table. If you like, you can also place 12 coins, or similar tokens of your choice, on each table – students will win one each time they correctly guess an answer.
- Demonstrate by taking a card yourself (without showing it to the students) and asking the class:

Where was I yesterday afternoon?

- Tell them that they can only ask questions beginning with 'Could you ...?' For example:

Could you eat there?

Could you swim there?

- You can only answer 'Yes, I could' or 'No, I couldn't'.
- Give a token to the first student to correctly guess the place.
- Then, get students to take it in turns to take a card from the pile and get the others to guess, rewarding each correct guess with a token.
- Ask the groups to announce who won the most tokens and congratulate the winners.

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FUN WITH GRAMMAR PICTURE CARDS



At the beach



On an aeroplane



At a restaurant



Watching TV at home



At school



Driving my car



At a pop concert



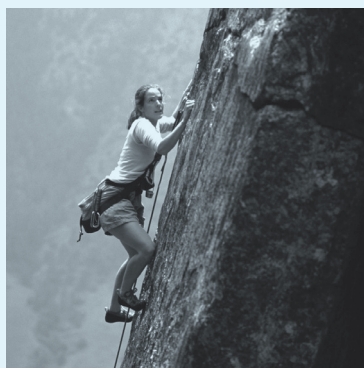
At the cinema



At the library



At work



Climbing a mountain



Skydiving

