

Racing past

by Maria Toth

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aim: To talk about past actions

Time: 30+ minutes

Student grouping: Pairs

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per pair of students; one counter per student; one dice per pair

Language focus: *Last weekend, on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Thursday ... I, he, she, we, they ... went, played, read, bought, watched ... shopping, football, basketball, table tennis, to the supermarket, to the cinema, to the park, to the theatre, television, a film, cards, a magazine, a book*

Aim of the game: To make as many complete sentences as possible in the time given

Step 3

The children take it in turns to throw the dice and gradually occupy circles. They must also start making sentences with the words they have occupied. Each sentence should only consist of 'occupied words.'

Step 4

Stop the game after a minimum of 20 to 25 minutes. The children count up the number of words they have in complete sentences and try to add in any of the words that are not yet occupied. The winner in each pair is the player with the most words in correct sentences.

It is advisable to monitor pairs, checking that the sentences they are making are correct and clarifying any doubts that the children may have.

Extra ideas

The children make their own game by following a similar outline and filling in the circles with words of their choice.

Warmer

Ask the class what they did last weekend, on Monday etc. Write the questions up on the board. Ask the class about other days of the week, so that they get practice using *On ...* Write up a list of the activities that they did.

Playing the game

Step 1

Tell each child to prepare a piece of blank paper and a coloured pen. Give out a copy of the worksheet to each pair. The children place their counters on START. Child A throws the dice and moves along as many circles as the number shown on the dice. Players can move either horizontally or vertically but not diagonally. Child A marks the circle they arrived at with a coloured pen. They also note down the word in the circle they arrive at on their piece of paper. Child A now 'owns' this circle and only he or she can pass through it to move onto other circles.

Step 2

Child B throws the dice and moves across the number of circles indicated on the dice, making sure to avoid landing on or moving through child A's occupied circle. They colour in the circle they arrive at using a different colour from child A. And they also note down the word they arrive at on their piece of paper.

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START

on weekend shopping went he the I
football television last weekend to Saturday a
theatre to played magazine went we read
Monday bought a basketball watched they book
last the played went Sunday Thursday the
park went cinema cards on a played
she to on she supermarket watched last
played table tennis to film the he weekend