

Future in the past: *was going to*

by Jill Hadfield

Level: Upper intermediate

Target age: Secondary / adult

Time needed: 15 minutes

Grammar objective: to practise *was going to*

Materials: two sets of the cut-outs worksheet for each group – one cut up into cards

Summary: This accuracy-based matching activity for small groups practises *was going to*.

Before the lesson

Print enough copies of the sentence beginnings and endings for each group and cut them out.

Procedure

1. Put the students in groups of four.
2. Give one set of the cards to each group and ask the students to spread them face-down on the table.
3. Explain to the students that they are going to play a game in which they have to match sentence beginnings and endings. Stress that each sentence beginning is compatible with more than one sentence ending.
4. Tell the students to take five cards each and take a minute or so to read them without showing the other students.
5. The first player should lay down a card with a sentence beginning.
6. The player with a matching ending card should then lay it down to complete the sentence. If the group agree that this is grammatically correct, the player keeps the pair of cards.
7. The game continues until all the cards have been used.
8. The player with the most pairs of cards at the end of the game is the winner.
9. When all the groups have finished the game, give them each a copy of the uncut worksheet so they can compare their results with the original answers.

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I was going to get married on Saturday but my fiancé ran off with someone else.
We were going to have a picnic yesterday but it rained all day.
I was going to phone him last night but I got home too late.
We were going to go to France as well as Spain but we ran out of money.
We were going to go to the concert on Friday but when I phoned to book there were no tickets left.
I wasn't going to tell you this but now I think it would be better if you knew about it.
She wasn't going to go to the party next Sunday but now she's decided to come.
I was going to email you about that but I forgot.
We weren't going to move house but then I got a new job.
He was going to study French but then he decided to learn Spanish instead.