

4A Past simple maze

Activity type: Grammar, pronunciation and listening – Hear/Say – Groups

Aim: To practise recognising and pronouncing the past simple forms of regular and irregular verbs

Language: Past simple verbs – Use at any point from 4.1.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every four learners and cut each worksheet along the dotted lines.

Time: 10–15 minutes

- 1 Learners sit in groups of four. Give the four learners in each group a copy of card A, B, C or D. If the class does not divide exactly into fours, two learners can share a card.
- 2 Working alone, learners look at the verbs in the right-hand column on their card and write the correct past simple form in the space under each verb. As they do this, go round and check. Learners with card C should ignore the word END at this point.

Weaker classes

With weaker classes, you may want to drill the pronunciation of the past simple forms at this stage, before students do the activity. Point out that:

- *-ed* adds a syllable /ɪd/ in *decided*, *wanted*, *hated* and *visited*.
- For other regular past simple forms, *-ed* does not add a syllable.

Focus also on the pronunciation of:

read /red/ *listened* /lɪsənd/ *bought* /bɔ:t/ *thought* /θɔ:t/ *caught* /kɔ:t/

- 3 To start the activity, the learner with card A looks at the box marked BEGINNING and reads the past simple form which he/she has written in the box to the right. The other three learners listen carefully to see if the word they hear is one of the words shown in the left-hand column on their card. If it is, that learner reads out the past simple form which they have written in the box to the right of the word that was said last. The activity continues in this way until one learner arrives at the box marked END. The group which arrives at this point first is the winning team.

Extension

The group which finishes first can then go through the maze backwards, from END to BEGINNING.

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A

HEAR	SAY
liked	want _____
had	hear _____
asked	watch _____
BEGINNING	live _____
sold	catch _____
decided	get _____
washed	put _____
ate	go _____

B

HEAR	SAY
lived	drink _____
walked	sell _____
listened	eat _____
bought	speak _____
told	wash _____
played	like _____
watched	sing _____
saw	have _____

C

HEAR	SAY
read	END
heard	think _____
put	drive _____
drank	work _____
sang	visit _____
got	say _____
wanted	listen _____
hated	ask _____

D

HEAR	SAY
thought	decide _____
went	see _____
visited	tell _____
caught	read _____
said	buy _____
drove	walk _____
worked	play _____
spoke	hate _____