

# Variety is the Spice of Life – as well as Grammar and Vocabulary Practice

Rob Dean February / March 2023



# Some Warmers...

# A Warmer

**Stand up if...**

**Stamp if...**

**Wave if...**

**Turn around 360 degrees if...**

**Clap your hands if...**

**Sit down if...**

# A Warmer (2)

**A fruit**

**Your first name**

**A colour**

**Your surname**

**A number between 1  
and 200**

**Your age**

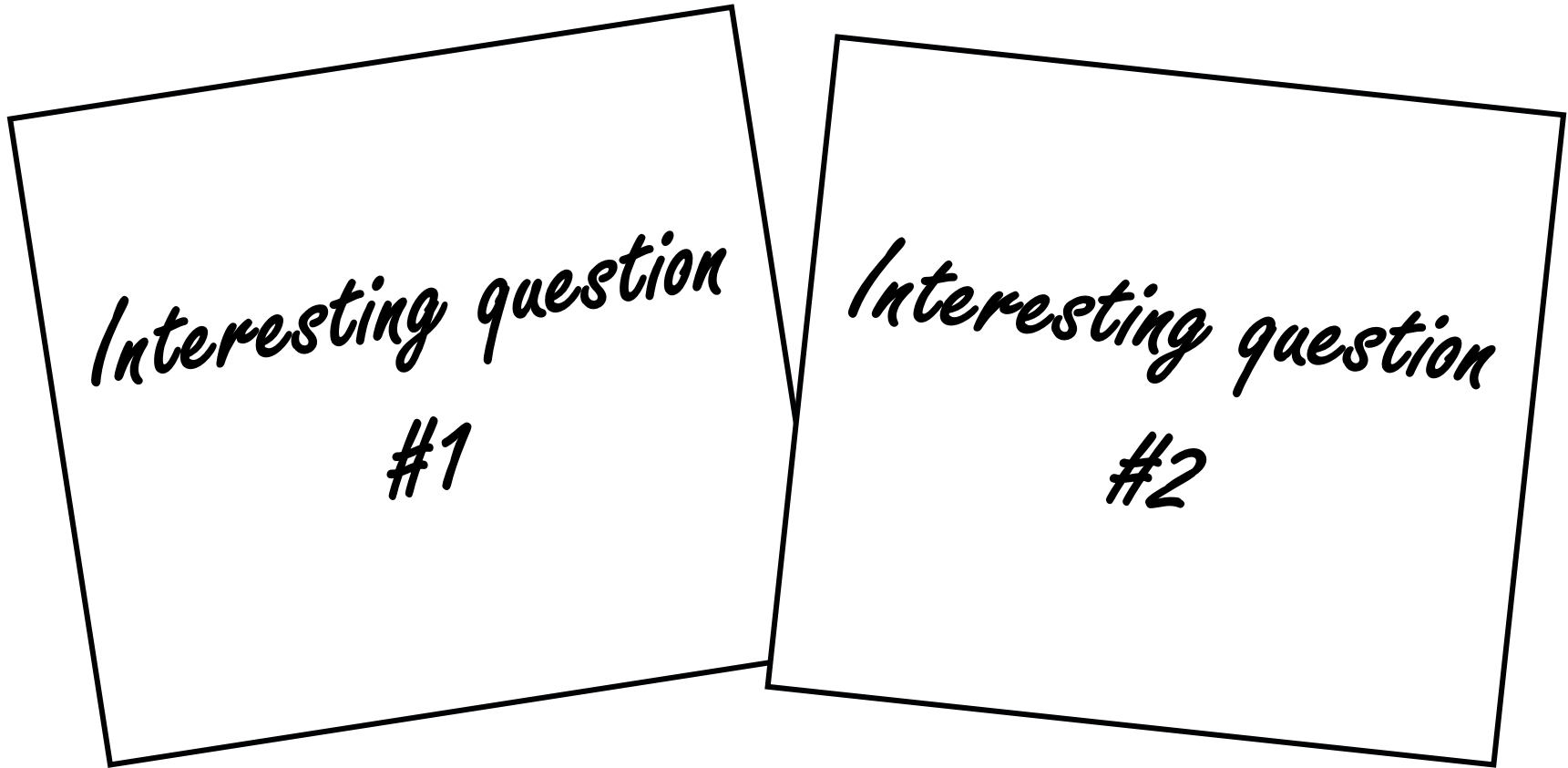
**A job beginning with  
the first letter of your  
name**

**Your job**

**A place you have never  
visited**

**Where you come from**

2 scraps of paper – 1 question\* on each



\* Questions for Rob





# What's your preference?



tea **or** coffee



spicy **or** mild



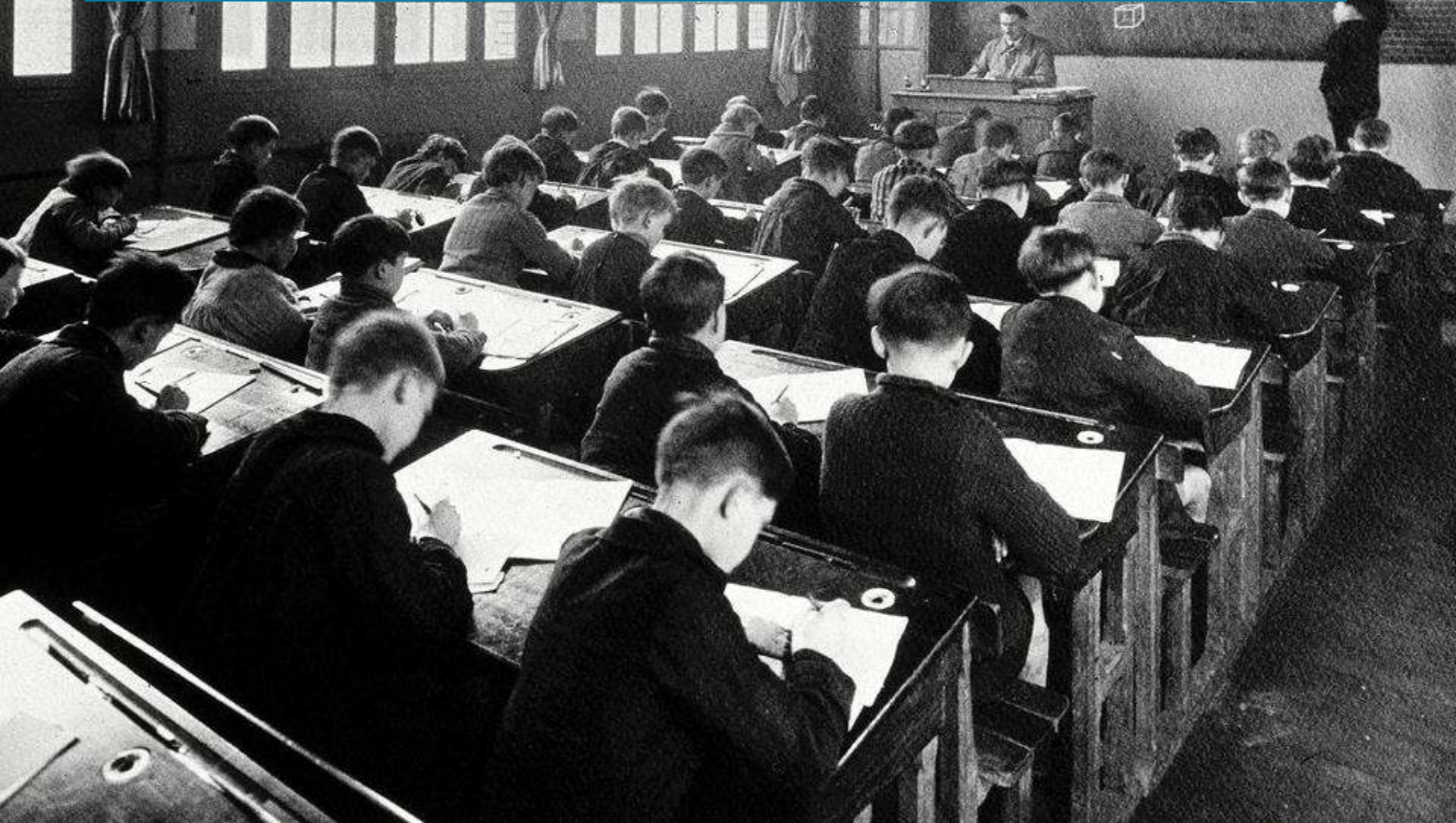
Too hot **or** too cold



Windows **or** Mac



# The Way Things Were...





# The Way Things Were...

## Lesson one

### Number 9 (nine)



Question: Is this a tree?

YES

Answer: Yes, this is a tree.



### Number 10 (ten)



Question: Is this a ship?

Answer: Yes, it is.

### Number 11 (eleven)



Question: Is this a ship?

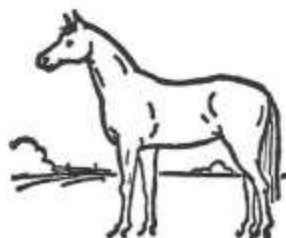
NO

Answer: No, it is not a ship;



it is a cigarette.

### Number 12 (twelve)



Question: Is this a cigarette?

Answer: No, it is not a cigarette;  
it is a horse.

# Meaningless Practice

1. Who	<b>lives</b>	in the yard?
2. What	<b>is</b>	for birds?
3. Who	<b>helps</b>	me to clean the flat?
4. Who	<b>comes up</b>	to the basket?
5. Who	<b>played</b>	in the yard?
6. Whose dog	<b>puts</b>	the last kitten into the box?
7. Whose fruit-trees	<b>grow</b>	in the garden?

1. The cat lives in the yard.
2. Grapes are for birds.
3. They help me to clean the flat.
4. The dog comes up to the basket.
5. The children played in the yard.
6. My dog puts the last kitten into the box.
7. My fruit trees grow in the garden.





# PRACTICE

## Activities...

**Adaptable for age and level**

**Adaptable for language area and topic**

**Interactive and communicative**

**Personalised / meaningful**

**Minimal preparation**





**illogical**

**difficult**

# The Trouble with Grammar



**abstract**

**invisible**



# Making Grammar Visible



## What's changed?

**Look at your partner for 60 seconds.**

**Turn around and look away from your partner**

**Change three things about your appearance**

**Look at your partner again and try to spot the differences**

**Result?**

**Present perfect made visual, kinaesthetic, personalised, memorable – and fun.**

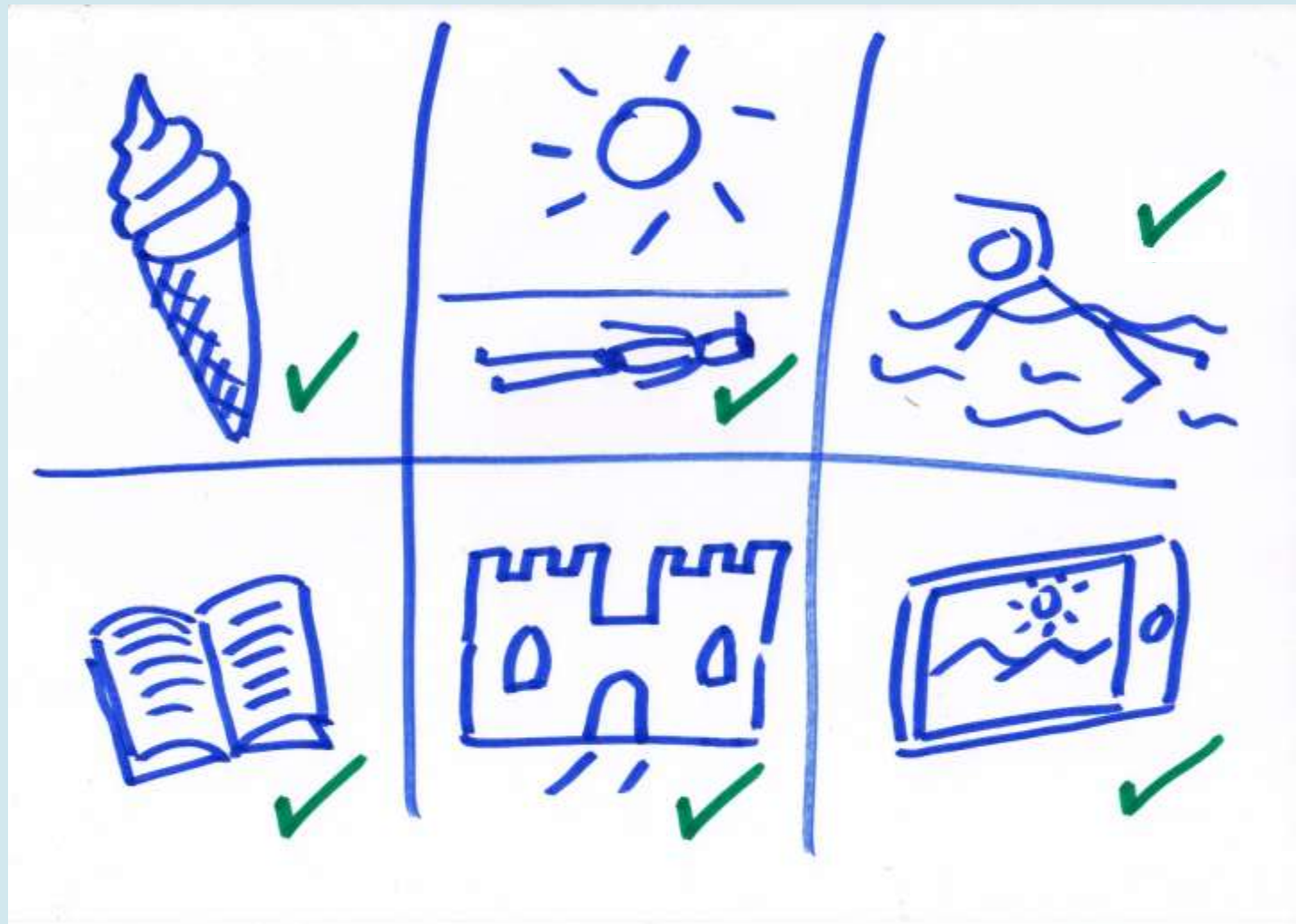
# 4 True; 1 False

1. I've visited 68 countries.
2. I've been offered guinea pig to eat (whole) in Peru.
3. I've travelled on the flight deck of a Boeing 767.
4. I've had my own show on Polish local radio.
5. I've owned a double decker bus.

Double  
Practice







5 True; 1 False

*Talk to your classmates and find somebody who... Think about what question forms you will need to use. Write down the name of the person who matches what you're looking for!*

1. can sing
2. can tell a joke
3. can type quickly
4. doesn't own a watch
5. has been in a hot air balloon
6. has been to a museum recently
7. has broken their leg
8. has climbed a mountain
9. has got a picture of their family in their bag or purse
10. has got long hair
11. has made a video call with their mobile phone
12. has never been to a wedding
13. has never used a computer

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Write down the name of someone you  
know who...

Kasia

Jacek

Beata

Stefan

Ania

# **Write down the name of someone you know who...**

- **Laughs a lot**
- **Is working very hard at the moment**
- **Enjoys talking a lot**
- **Is learning a new skill at the moment**
- **Doesn't like spinach**



**What did you do at the weekend?**

**I sleep...**

# Bingo


sleep

go

eat

swim

have

bring

buy

cut

catch

sing

take

get

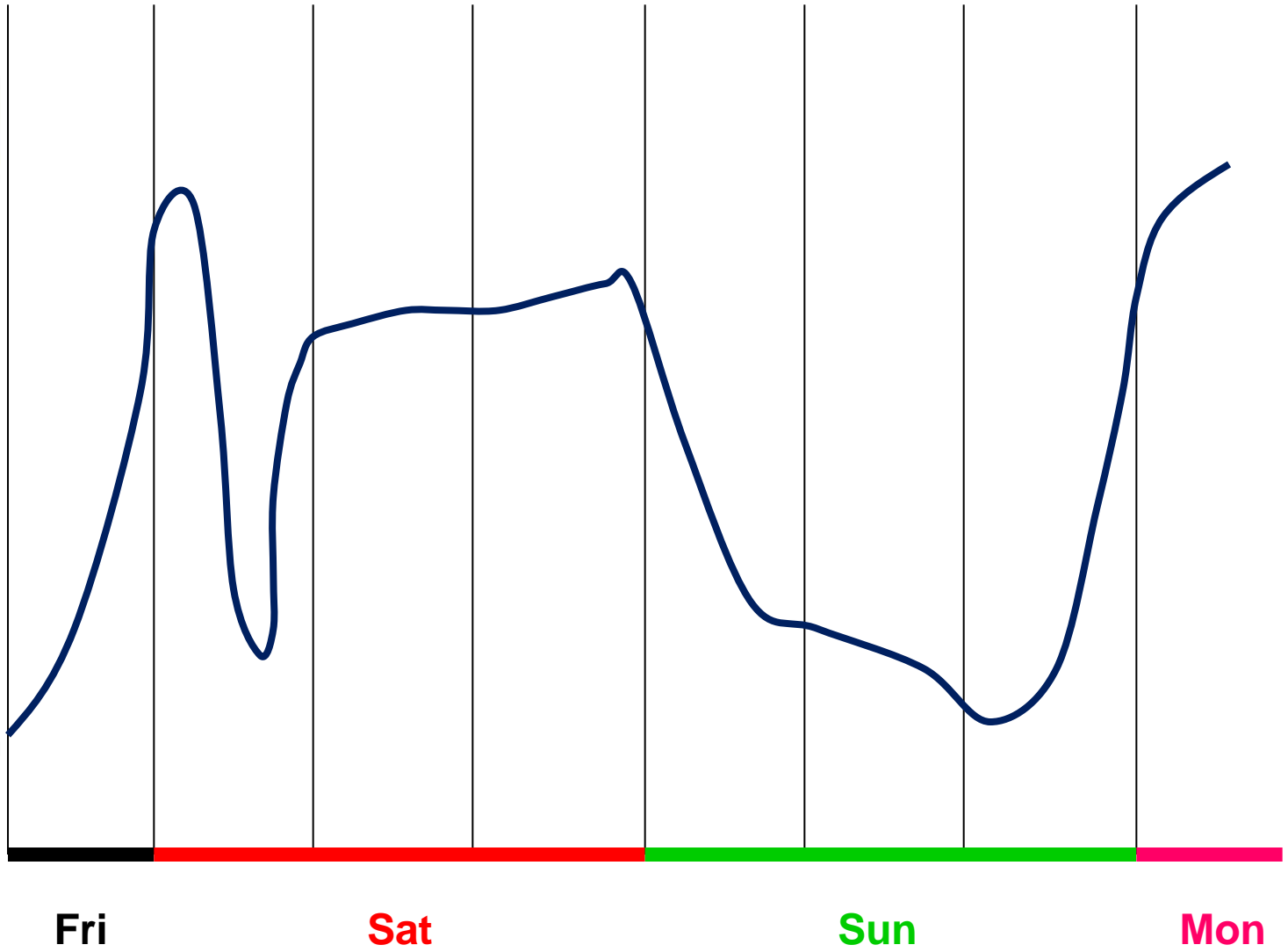
begin

build

drink

**What did you do at the weekend?**

**I sleep...**





# Easily confused words:

**lend / borrow**  
**make / do**  
**job / work**



# Banana Dictation

Do you have a part time **job**?

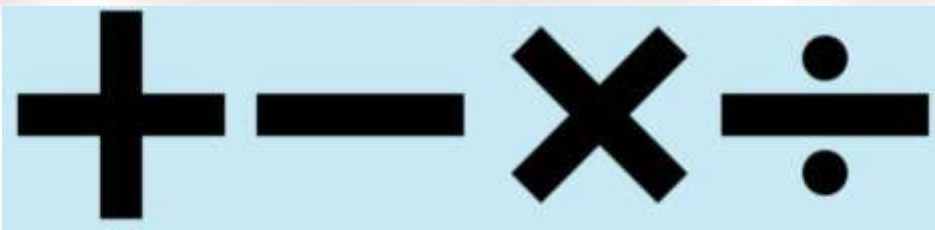
What time do most people start **work** in your country?

Have you ever applied for a holiday **job**?

Would you like to **work** for a foreign company?

Do either of your parents **work** from home?

Do you know anybody who has a really good **job**?



**It's not just the content words  
that can be troublesome...**

**Rob he like tabouleh**

**Rob he no like bananas**



**Buzz likes bananas...**

**cheese**

**apples**

**milk**

**cake**

**crisps**

**hamburgers**

**pizza**

**oranges**

**biscuits**

**fish**

**chips**

**cherries**

# Words don't exist in isolation

fish and chips

salt and pepper

take a photo

have a haircut

get on the bus



# What collocates with...

Points

10

**demand**

8

*and* **justify your**

6

*and* **decisive**

5

*and* **defend your**

4

*and* **spring into**

2

*and* **plan of**

**action**



# Family Fortunes

# Something you might catch

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**listen** to Spotify

**watch** YouTube videos

**play** on the X-Box

**go** on a sleepover

**collect** Instagram 'friends'

**do** nothing

1

A

2

B

3

C

4

D

5

E

6

F



# Random Pelmanism

- Take twelve scraps of paper
- Write one word (noun) on each scrap
- Turn them face down
- Take turns to reveal any two words
- Connect them with a comparison
- If comparison is valid, pick up the cards
- The player with the most cards at the end wins.





# Objects in a room

**Furniture,  
belongings and  
prepositions of  
place**



# Challenges...

## Can you:

- Rotate your arms in different directions at the same time?
- Pat your head and rub your stomach?
- Fly a plane?



# Games in the classroom?

**Provide natural opportunities for repetition of language**

**Develop strategy / critical thinking skills**

**Can be motivating**

**Can contribute to the linguistic aims of the lesson**





# PRACTICE

## Activities...

**Adaptable for age and level**

**Adaptable for language area  
and topic**

**Interactive and  
communicative**

**Personalised / meaningful**

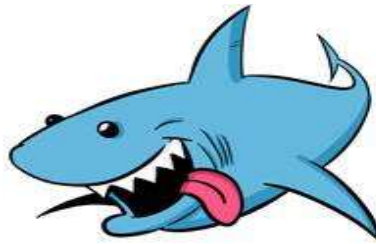
**Minimal preparation**





~~Q X Z~~

--	--	--	--	--	--	--



# Thank you

[www.atel-lb.org](http://www.atel-lb.org)  
[robdeantraining@gmail.com](mailto:robdeantraining@gmail.com)

