

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: survey, asking and answering questions, freer practice (group work)

Focus

Permission, obligation and prohibition in the past

were(n't) allowed to

had to / didn't have to

Aim

To ask and answer questions about what you were and weren't allowed to do and had to do when you were a child.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of 12 and cut as indicated.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this past obligation and prohibition activity, students ask and answer questions about what they were and weren't allowed to do and had to do when they were a child. This activity can be used to practice permission, obligation and prohibition in the past.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of up to 12.

Give one card to each student.

Explain that each student is responsible for finding the answer to the question on their card by speaking to everybody in the group.

First, students prepare the question they need to ask, e.g. 'Were you allowed to watch TV at night when you were a child?'

Students then go around their group finding out about what their classmates were and weren't allowed to do and had to do when they were a child by asking questions with *Were you allowed to...?* or *Did you have to...?*

Students put a tick or cross on the back of the card each time a classmate answers yes or no.

When everyone has finished, students sit down in their groups and take it in turns to talk about the information they found out.

Each student writes about the group's findings.

Example:

In our group, nobody was allowed to buy their own clothes. Most people weren't allowed to go out with their friends in the evening, but Darren and Tony were allowed to sometimes, etc.

When everyone has finished, groups take it in turns to report back to the class on what they found out during the activity.



Find out

How many people were allowed to watch TV at night?



Find out

How many people were allowed to go out alone?



Find out

How many people had to sometimes look after a younger brother or sister?



Find out

How many people had to wear a uniform to school?



Find out

How many people had to be home by a certain time?



Find out

How many people had to go to bed at a certain time?



Find out

How many people were allowed to go out with their friends in the evening?



Find out

How many people were allowed to play outside with their friends?



Find out

How many people had to help with the housework?



Find out

How many people were allowed to eat sweets?



Find out

How many people were allowed to choose their own clothes?



Find out

How many people had to go to their room when they were in trouble?

