#### **TEACHER'S NOTE**

# one stop english .com Solutions for English Teaching

## Mingling activity: Irregular pasts by Jill Hadfield

Level: Elementary

Target age: Secondary / Adult

Time needed: 20-30 minutes

Grammar objective: to practise using

irregular pasts

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student; one copy of the diary per student

**Summary**: an individual and mingling activity to practise the irregular past simple

#### Procedure

- Give each student a copy of the worksheet.
   Working individually, they should write the
   past simple form of each verb next to its
   infinitive. Then, they should match each
   verb with the correct word/s or phrase/s.
   There may be a number of combinations, not
   necessarily all noted in the Key below.
- 2. Go through to check accuracy before students do the speaking activity.

#### Key:

In the morning: woke up; began work / began breakfast; went shopping / swimming / running; bought a jacket / a dress / some food / bought a coffee; did the shopping / the housework; drank coffee / tea; ate breakfast; caught a bus / a train; got a coffee / got breakfast; met friends

In the afternoon: rode my bike; came home from work; read a book; ran ten kilometres; went on Facebook; swam one kilometre; ate a cake / ate lunch; took photos; made lunch / made a cake; wrote some emails

In the evening: met some friends; gave a party; had dinner in a restaurant / had some food; went to see a film / to a party / to a restaurant / home; saw a film / saw some friends

3. Now, hand out the diary and ask students to complete it with four activities per section (12 in total), which they should choose, or adapt, from the worksheet. E.g.:

In the morning, at 9am, I got up. At 10am, I went shopping. I bought a new jacket. I met my friends for coffee.

Point out that students don't have to specify the time for every activity, only when it's appropriate. Students could also be encouraged to be creative with the provided text.

- 4. Draw your students' attention to the questions at the bottom of the diary sheet. Ask students to circulate, asking other students about their day, using the questions provided and responding about their day. E.g.:
  - A: What did you do yesterday morning?
  - B: I got up at 9, ate breakfast and then I went shopping. What about you?
  - A: I got up at 9 and went shopping, too. Did you buy anything?
  - B: I bought a new jacket and then met some friends and drank coffee. What about you?
  - A: No, I didn't buy anything but I met some friends for lunch.
- 5. Ask students to find the person who had the day most similar to their own. They can determine this by counting the number of activities that were the same. For example, in the above exchange, the two characters could each count three: getting up at 9, going shopping and meeting friends. Set a time limit for this activity.
- 6. Seat students in new pairs and ask them to tell each other about the most similar days. E.g.:
  - Marine and I both got up at 9 and went shopping. I bought a jacket but she didn't buy anything. We both met friends but I drank coffee with my friends and she had lunch.
- Round off the activity by finding out which two students counted the most similar activities.
   Ask those students to recount the similarities, making sure they use the correct past simple forms.





### Mingling activity: Irregular pasts by Jill Hadfield

Put the verbs in the past simple. Then, match each verb with the correct word/s or phrase/s.

#### 1. In the morning

wake a jacket / a dress / some food

begin up friends go

buy shopping / swimming / running

do breakfast drink work

eat the shopping / the housework

coffee / tea catch get a bus / a train meet a coffee

#### 2. In the afternoon

on Facebook ride one kilometre come read my bike run photos ten kilometres go

home from work swim eat some emails a cake take make a book write

lunch

#### 3. In the evening

meet a party give some friends

to see a film / to a party / to a restaurant / home have

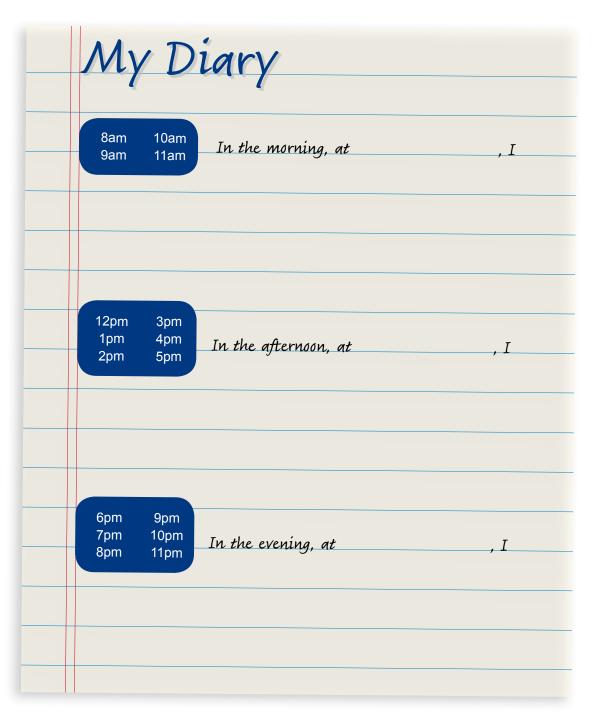
go a film

dinner in a restaurant see



## Mingling activity: Irregular pasts by Jill Hadfield

Choose times and activities and write in your diary about yesterday.



#### Asking someone about their day - possible questions

- What did you do yesterday morning / afternoon / evening?
- · What about you?
- And then what did you do?
- And how about in the afternoon / evening?
- Did you meet up with your friends?
- Did you drink coffee or did you go shopping?

