



Dice, Poker Chips, and Beach Balls

How to make drilling and practicing grammar fun.
How do you know students can use the English teachers have taught?

Dice



“Show me how to... type quickly.”

I: Adverb Roll

Materials: two dice per student pair

SWBAT: use and show understanding of verb/adverb combinations

Students roll the dice and say, “Show me how to VERB + ADVERB.”

6 verb phrases

1. cross the street
2. type on a keyboard
3. answer the phone
4. enter the classroom
5. wave goodbye
6. button your shirt

6 adverbs

1. cautiously
2. cheerfully
3. strangely
4. sadly
5. quickly
6. calmly

More sets:

- 6 verb phrases: tiptoe across the room, shrug your shoulders, sweep the floor, wipe off your mouth, shake your head, zip up your jacket
6 adverbs: impatiently, carefully, enthusiastically, anxiously, quietly, angrily
- 6 verb phrases: close the door, push in your chair, pull out your chair, brush your teeth, drink coffee, make a sandwich

6 adverbs: slowly, fast, repeatedly, loudly, gently, aggressively

II: What were you doing at _____?

Materials: one die per student pair

SWBAT: Ask, say, and report what they were doing at specific times of the day.

Student roll the die for an hour of the day and complete the question with their choice time of day and day.

Roll the die for an hour	Add a time of day	Add a day
1. 8 o' clock 2. nine thirty 3. quarter to twelve 4. one fifteen 5. half past three 6. quarter to eight	in the morning in the afternoon in the evening at night	on Friday on Saturday on Sunday

A: What were you doing at 3:30 in the afternoon on Friday?

B: At 3:30 in the afternoon on Friday I was riding the bus.

Extension: find out what you and your partner were doing at the same time

“At 3:30 in the afternoon on Friday I was riding the bus **while** Janelle was checking her email.”

Poker Chips



“You said that you watched a movie last night, right?”

“Right!”

1. “Uh-huh. Right? Right!”

Materials: 6 poker chips per pair

SWBAT: Ask and answer questions while showing active listening and equal turn taking.

Students push forward and touch poker chips as they ask and answer questions. It can be done to practice many different language functions and grammar points.

For example, here it can be used to practice simple past:

Student A: What did you do last night?
Student B: Last night I VERB2
Student A: Uh-huh (touch chips)
3X
Student B: What did I say?
Student A: You said that you VERB2, right?
Student B: Right/Not exactly. Try again.

To practice phrasal verbs or verb + gerund/infinitive:

A: What are three things you put off doing last night?

B: Last night I put off doing my homework. > *uh-huh*

Last night I put off cleaning my room. > *uh-huh*

Last night I put off going to the gym. > *uh-huh*

What did I say? > *You said that you...*

To practice adjective vocabulary:

A: What are three things that make you nervous/happy/sad/homesick/etc.?

B: One thing that makes me nervous is _____ > *uh-huh*

Another thing that makes me nervous is _____ > *uh-huh*

The last thing that makes me nervous is _____ > *uh-huh*

What did I say? > *You said that you...*

2. Stack of Chips

Materials: 10 poker chips per pair

SWBAT: Ask and answer follow-up questions while showing active listening and equal turn taking.

A student begins with a dialogue with a yes/no question. Taking turns back and forth, students ask and answer follow-up who/why/when/here/how question, each time adding a poker chip to the pile.

Beach Balls

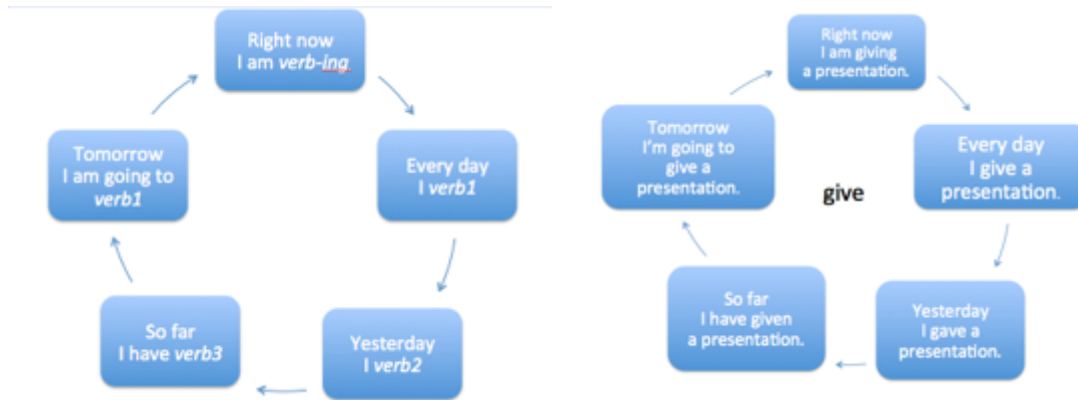


1. Verb tense cycle

Materials: one beach ball per pair

SWBAT: Use irregular verbs accurately in simple continuous, simple present, simple past, present perfect, and the future.

Student pass the ball back and forth to make sentences with the key verb in 5 verb tenses. Each sentence uses an appropriate time indicator. They keep going around the verb tense cycle until the teacher cues the next. It's a fun way to drill. The teacher may also insert discussion questions between each verb tense cycle to practice using the verb in different tenses.



Discuss

- What are you wearing today?
- What did you wear yesterday?
- What clothing have you never worn but would like to try on?

Discuss

- What gifts have you given or received recently?
- Talk about a recent holiday. What presents did you give?
- What's the best gift you have ever given somebody else?
- Have you given any presentations at ILI recently? What did you give your presentation on?

Subscribe

Discuss

- Talk about a time you felt homesick.
- Talk about a time you felt happy.
- Talk about a time you felt exhausted.
- Talk about a time you felt frustrated.
- Talk about a time you felt confident.
- Talk about a time you felt nervous.
- Talk about a time you felt satisfied.
- Talk about a time you felt proud.
- Talk about a time you felt hopeful.

after drilling *wear*

after drilling *give*

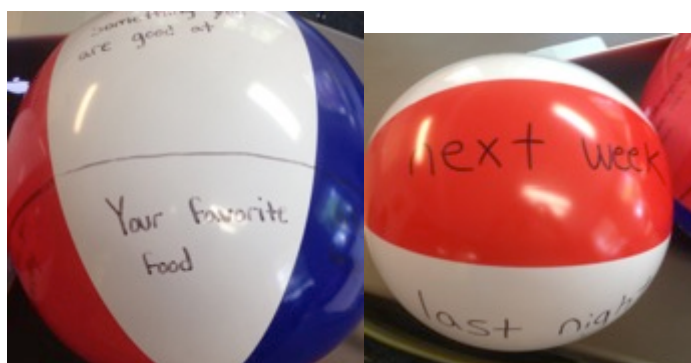
after drilling *feel*

2. The writing on the beach ball

Materials: one beach ball per pair

SWBAT: Ask and answer questions unanticipated questions in a group

Students pass the ball back and forth. Wherever the student's left thumb lands, the student uses the language cue to ask a question.



“What’s your favorite food?” “What are you going to do next week?”