

## Teaching English as a Second Language

### ACTIVITY:

#### What are you/were you/will you be doing?

TESOL LING 445 ED

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for 02-07-02

**Level:** adv. beginner-intermediate/3-6th grade & adult

**Objective:** Students practice application of different simple tenses of verbs, with playful kinesthetic reinforcement.

**Preparation Time:** 0 min.

**Class Time:** 15-30 min.

**Materials:** A coin to toss, or some other binary randomizer -could also be evens or odds on a dice.

**Procedure:** Have students stand in a circle. Chose one (ss. A) to stand in the center. When the game starts the student who was standing to the left of ss. A in the circle (ss. B) must step to the center and ask ss. A "What are you doing?" Ss. A must reply with an action that ss. B will have to mime, or act out, such as, "I'm flying a kite." Ss. A can now retire back to the circle in the same position they were in, and ss. B now tosses the coin. It will have been established before the game that 'heads' will indicate future tense, and tails means past, so that the fall of the coin will dictate how ss. B will repeat ss. A's sentence. Heads means that ss. B would have to say, "I will fly a kite." Ss. B must now mime flying a kite for a few moments, till the person who was standing to the left of them in the circle steps forward and asks, "What are you doing?" An additional option is to have the first student repeat the question in the tense indicated, before the second student repeats the action sentence in the new tense.

ss. B; What are you doing?

ss. A: I'm flying a kite.

*coin toss -past*

ss. A: What were you doing?

ss. B: I was flying a kite.

**Rationale:** In this activity students practice switching tenses, and are made aware of their choice and use of tenses. It reinforces learning kinesthetically, and the playful noncompetitive nature of the activity encourages students to experiment and maybe make mistakes.

**References:** I learned this game, without the repeating the action in different tenses part, at Girl Scout camp last summer. I think it may be a New Game.

**Extension:** Multi tense cloze sentences work sheet -attached.

## PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE VERBS

name: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1)
  - a. Many Egyptians \_\_\_\_\_ very hard to build the Pyramids.
  - b. My sister works at the coffee shop three days a week.
  - c. I will work very hard at my homework tonight.
  
- 2)
  - a. I ran to the store yesterday.
  - b. I \_\_\_\_\_ at the track after school every day.
  - c. She will run the fastest at the race this weekend.
  
- 3)
  - a. Last winter I \_\_\_\_\_ skiing.
  - b. I \_\_\_ skiing when ever I can.
  - c. I will go skiing next week.
  
- 4)
  - a. It hasn't snowed in Eugene in a long time.
  - b. It never \_\_\_\_\_ in Hollywood.
  - c. I hope it will snow this week.
  
- 5)
  - a. My ears \_\_\_\_\_ for hours after the loud rock concert.
  - b. Please knock first, then ring the doorbell.
  - c. My alarm \_\_\_\_\_ at six thirty tomorrow morning.