

Sports Day

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Objective: To teach the present progressive verb as a modifier.

Sentence: "Do you mean the boy running with a dog?"

Text: Sunshine 3, p. 56

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials: Sheet C, enough copies for each student.

Six sets of three complete sentences with the target grammar cut into individual words, mixed up and placed into envelopes. See sheet D, and the description in the "Procedure" section.

Small slips of paper with pictures or words representing various activities that can be acted out, (playing baseball, eating ramen, pondering the meaning of life, etc.).

Summary: Students will complete three activities in small groups.

1. Complete a worksheet by writing sentences.
2. Forming sentences by unscrambling cut-out words.
3. Act out various activities and form sentences verbally.

Procedure: PART I: This grammar point is a difficult one, so I tried to think of a way to limit the other variables and just practice the target grammar. I considered the idea of sports day, since it is an event that all the students know well, and because we could use the familiar verb "play" and the names of sports.

The entire class can be done in lunch groups, and if you are feeling ambitious, you can keep score throughout the various events and find a winner in the end. Have students clear their desks except for a pencil, and ask them to make lunch groups. Give each group copies of Sheet A, one for each student. Tell them that they can't start until you say "go" because they will race as a group. When every student in the group is finished, then the group is finished, and the first group to finish will win profound glory and honor, a round of applause, or perhaps a sticker or something.

Hopefully, it should be self-explanatory, but explain the directions for the worksheet. Please put your own name in the three blanks enclosed in parenthesis, so that one example is provided for the students. Then, students talk with each other, chose a person to play each sport, and write the appropriate sentence. They are writing essentially the same sentence again and again, so ideally the pattern will stay in their mind. Also, since they are working in groups in a competition with other groups, the students who finish quickly have some incentive to help those who are sitting three feet away from the other members and staring out the

window, without a worksheet or a pencil. Be sure to emphasize that every student has to finish.

PART II: This scrambled sentence can be used for many different grammar points. I used the following examples in this case.

Nakata is the person playing soccer.
Ayumi is the person singing songs.
The person teaching English is (Warren).

(Nakata is a famous soccer player, and Ayumi is a famous singer. Obviously, any names will work, but ones that the students are familiar with will be better. Also, please use your own name or your JTE's name in the place of mine. If you use the preprepared worksheet, then you can just write your name or you JTE's name, by hand on six slips of paper.)

Print these sentences on to 6 pieces of A3 paper. With a paper cutter, cut out each word, and separate them into six piles. (Depending on the level of your students, you can make the period separate, or leave it attached to the last word of each sentence to serve as a hint.) You should have six sets of three complete sentences. Place these words into envelopes.

In class, if available, place pictures of Ayumi, Nakata, and a picture of yourself or your JTE on the board to provide a hint, and explain that students will make three sentences in their groups. (If you can't find these pictures, writing the names will work as well.) With gestures, demonstrate the acts of emptying the envelope, frantically trying to create sentences, and raising hands exuberantly upon completion. Students may have no idea what you are talking about if it is the first time to do an activity like this, but say "one, two, three, go," get them to pour the words out of the envelopes on to their desks, and they will soon figure it out. Again, the first team to complete the activity is the winner.

When everyone has finished, be sure to practice reading the correct sentences, and have students repeat after you. Also, look around on the floor under each group to make sure that your sets of words are still complete.

PART III: At this point in the sports day, students have worked with the written words, but have not yet had a chance to try to use this grammar in speaking. The final activity is intended to give them this opportunity.

As with most activities, it is important to explain this one through demonstration with your JTE. Each group needs to choose one person to act. Have that person stand up and draw one of your activity cards. Again, say, "one, two, three, go," and then that person can begin acting out that activity. Anyone in the class who knows the answer can raise their hand and make a sentence. "(Daisuke) is the person (playing soccer)," or "The person (wantonly consuming natural resources) is (Kaori)." If a student says a correct sentence, their team can be awarded points. You can continue with this activity until one student from each group has had a chance to act, or until you are out of time.

As I said at the beginning, you could keep score throughout the series of events to find the final winner. Good luck.

Sports Day!

Today is Sports Day! Everyone chose one sport to play.

Who is in your group? (Circle your own name).

() _____

What sport does everyone play?

~~table-tennis~~ baseball basketball tennis
volleyball softball badminton soccer

() _____ is playing table-tennis
_____ is playing _____
_____ is playing _____
_____ is playing _____
_____ is playing _____
_____ is playing _____
_____ is playing _____
_____ is playing _____

1. Who is the person playing table-tennis?

The person playing table-tennis is ()

2. Who is the person playing baseball?

The person baseball

3. Who is the person playing basketball?

person

4. Who is the person playing tennis?

tennis

5. Who is the person playing volleyball?

6. Who is the person playing softball?

7. Who is the person playing badminton?

8. Who is the person playing soccer?

Nakata is the person
playing soccer. Ayumi is
the person singing songs.
The person teaching
English is (Warren).