

# Teaching grammar



## Change places if...

This is a lively activity that can be used to practise a variety of structures. The students sit in a circle, and the teacher stands in the middle.

- The teacher gives a command; for example, 'Change places if you're wearing trainers,' (this practises present continuous forms).
- All students who are wearing trainers must stand up, and move quickly to a vacant chair in the circle.
- The teacher chooses a student to give the next command; for example, 'Change places if you're wearing jeans,' and so on.
- Adapt the activity to practise different structures and tenses with commands such as, 'Change places if you went to the cinema last weekend/would like to have less homework/could swim when you were five,' etc.
- Play a more competitive variation of the game by removing a chair after each command. The person left without a chair stays in the middle of the circle and gives the next command.
- This activity works well at the beginning of a lesson to focus the learners or as a fun way to end the lesson.

## Noughts and crosses

This group writing activity can be adapted to all levels and ages by changing the grammar point or instructions (phrasal verbs, prepositions, modal verbs, write sentences in the past, future...)

- Draw a three-by-three grid on the board like the one below:

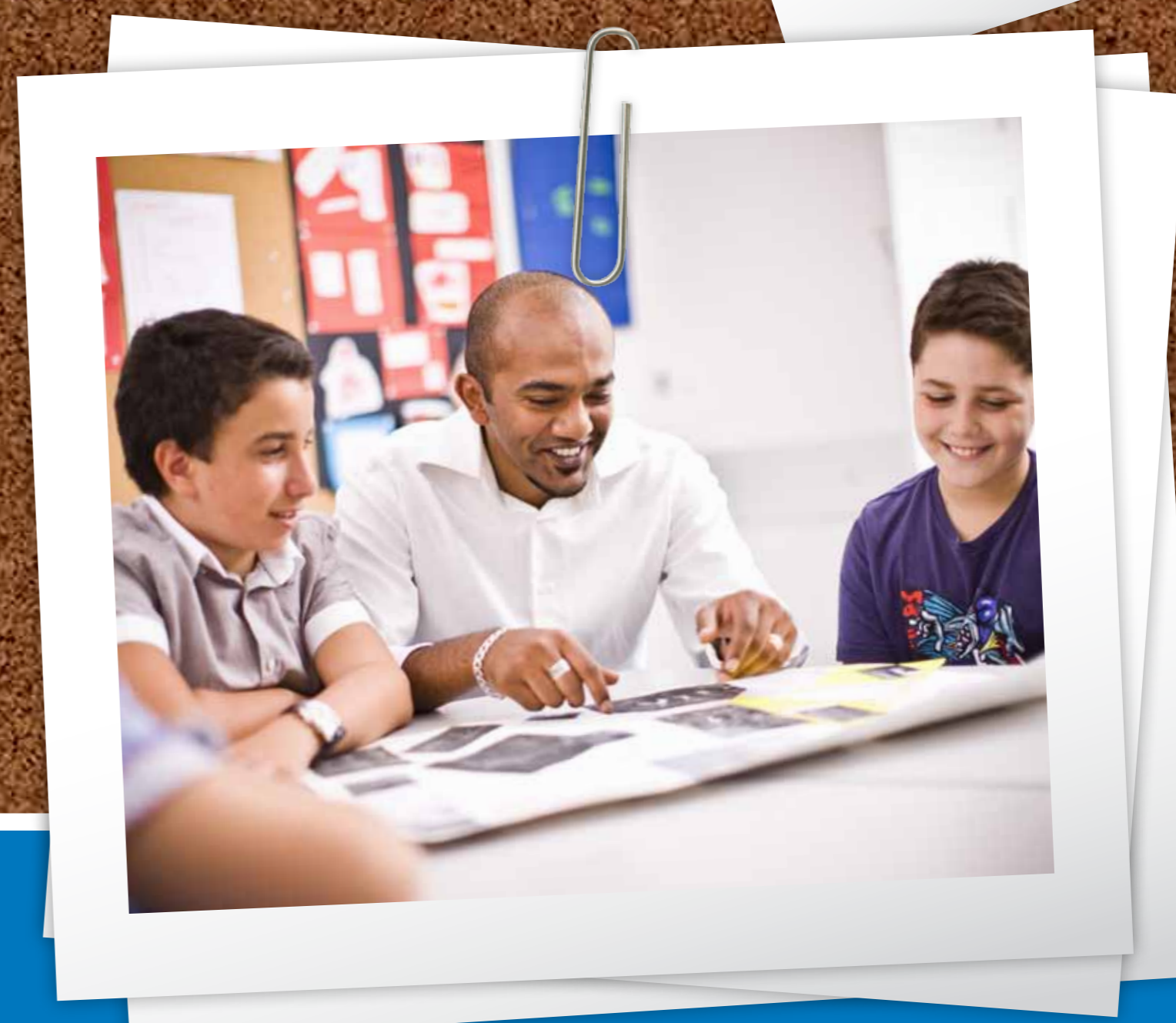
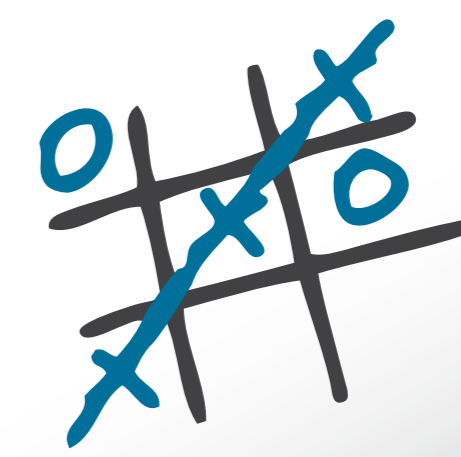
go	walk	run
play	swim	jump
kick	dive	hop

- Divide the class into two teams: Team 1 = X, Team 2 = O.
- The teams take turns to choose a verb and write a sentence on the board to illustrate it; for example, go – I go to school by bus.
- If the sentence is correct they write their symbol (X or O) in the go box.
- If the sentence is incorrect, the next team has a turn and may choose any box.
- The aim is to get three boxes in a row horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- Each team works together to prepare their sentences and selects a writer to write the sentences on the board.

## Find someone who...

This is a speaking activity that you can use to practise any grammar or language. The learners have to try to find someone in the group who matches a description or has done a specific activity. This version practises using the present perfect for experiences.

- On the board write:
  - \* find someone who has been abroad
  - \* find someone who has eaten something really strange
  - \* find someone who has done a bungee jump
- The learners make questions ('Have you been abroad?', etc.) and then in groups ask each other the questions.
- You can choose the language you want to practise with lower or higher levels.



For more examples of similar exercises, please visit:

**[www.teachingenglish.org.uk/teaching-resources](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/teaching-resources)**