

Past and future opposites reversi memory game

Instructions for teachers

Make one copy per group of two to four students. Cut up the worksheet so that the two sides of each card are still connected, i.e. don't cut between "tomorrow" and "yesterday" etc. Discard any cards which are too difficult to be useful for your students. Give out one pack of cards per group of students. Ask students to fold them and put the cards in a line on table, either side up. If they like, student can look at the two sides as they fold the cards.

Students work together to try to guess which on the other side of the cards by thinking about whether the half they can see is past or future and converting it into the opposite form. They then turn the card over to check. If they are correct, they can take away that card. If they are wrong, they turn the card over and leave it there the other way up.

When they get to the end of the line of cards, they then go through the ones which are still there (because they got them wrong the first time) in the same way. Again, any which they get wrong stay in the line to try again next time. This continues until all the cards are gone, with the cards having to be guessed in a different direction each time (e.g. "tomorrow" to "yesterday", then "yesterday" to "tomorrow") until they get them right.

After they finish the game, give out un-cut-up copies of the worksheet and answer any questions.

They can then test each by:

- Reading out a pair of opposite expressions and seeing if their partner can say which is future
- Reading out one side and seeing if their partner can say the opposite
- Saying all but one expression on two sides of a card (that has more than two expressions in total) and seeing if their partner can come up with the missing one
- Helping their partner brainstorm as many different opposite forms as they can (giving them key words etc to help)

The gapfill task below can be done before or after they test each other.

Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers

tomorrow	yesterday	the day after tomorrow	the day before yesterday
in three days	three days ago	last week	next week
the week after next	the week before last	a year ago	in a year
a few minutes ago	in a few minutes	a long time ago	in the distant future/ one day/ some day
in the near future/ soon	not long ago/ recently	ASAP/ immediately/ straightaway	just
I (have) just...	I'm about to/ I'll... ASAP/ immediately/ straightaway	the last meeting	the next meeting
the meeting after next	the meeting before last	after this meeting	before this meeting
there was a...	there will be a/ is going to be a...	earlier (today)	later (today)
at this time tomorrow I will be ...ing	at this time yesterday I was ...ing	I finished it on Friday.	I will finish it on Friday.
I have never been to...	I will never go to...	I have been here since June.	I will/ I'm going to be here until June.
I'll tell him when I see him.	I told him when I saw him.	I didn't...	I'm not going to/ won't/ not ...ing...

Write one word in each gap below, looking at the opposites to help. Then check above.

tomorrow	_____	the _____ after tomorrow	the _____ before yesterday
in three days	three days ____	_____ week	next week
the week _____ next	the week before last	a year ago	_____ a year
a few minutes _____	_____ a few minutes	_____ long time ago	_____ the distant future/ one day/ some day
in _____ near future/ soon	not _____ ago/ recently	ASAP/ immediately/ straightaway	_____
I (have) just...	I'll... ASA__ / immediately/ straightaway	_____ last meeting	_____ next meeting
the meeting after _____	the meeting before _____	_____ this meeting	before this meeting
there was a...	there will _____ / is going to _____ a...	earlier (today)	_____ (today)
_____ this time tomorrow I will be ...ing	_____ this time yesterday I was ...ing	I finished it _____ Friday.	I will finish it _____ Friday.
I _____ never been to...	I will never _____ to...	I have been here _____ June.	I will/ I'm going to be here until June.
I'll tell him when I see him.	I _____ him when I _____ him.	I didn't...	I'm not going to/ _____n't/ not ...ing...

Write opposites in each space below (e.g. the past if the sentence given is about the future).

_____	yesterday	_____	the day before yesterday
_____	three days ago	last week	_____
the week after next	_____	_____	in a year
a few minutes ago	in a few minutes	a long time ago	_____
in the near future/ soon	_____	ASAP/ immediately/ straightaway	just
I (have) just...	_____	after this meeting	_____
_____	there will be a/ is going to be a...	earlier (today)	_____
at this time tomorrow I will be ...ing	_____	earlier	_____
_____	I will never go to...	_____	I will be here until June.

Check with a complete version of the worksheet or as a class.