

Yrjö and Orvokki (Grammar)

- Description:** An information gap activity to practice asking and answering questions in the simple past.
- Use with or after:** *English Network 1 (New Edition)*, Unit 4, Step 3.
- Skill:** Reading, speaking, grammar
- Focus:** Questions and answers in the simple past, using the regular verbs *ask* and *walk*, and the irregular verbs *buy*, *drink*, *eat*, *get*, *go*, *meet*, *speak* and *take*.
- Time:** 10–15 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out the two work sheets for groups A and B (second and third pages of this file). Make enough copies so that each student can have one of the work sheets, but not both.
- Procedure:**
- Divide the class into two groups, A and B, and give each person a copy of the work sheet for his or her group. Both groups have the same text, but with different gaps. The gaps for group A are numbered 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. The gaps for group B are numbered 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10.
 - Working with someone else from their own group, each student should write the five questions that will be needed to fill the gaps in the text. While they are doing this, you should circulate and check that they are formulating the questions correctly.
 - Group A's questions are: 1) *When did they get up?* 3) *What did they drink?* 5) *Who did they meet?* 7) *What did they take?* 9) *Where did they walk?*
 - Group B's questions are: 2) *Where did they go for breakfast?* 4) *What did they eat?* 6) *What did she (Orvokki) speak with them?* 8) *What did they ask Yrjö?*
 - When everybody has written the questions, ask them to stand up with their worksheets and a pen or pencil (and a book or other firm surface to write on) and find a new partner from the other group. Stress that they should not look at the other person's text, only at their own.
 - The new partners take turns asking and answering the questions, in the order that they are numbered. Each person should write the answers in the gaps in the text.
 - If they need to spell words for their partner, make sure they use the English alphabet. This may be necessary for *sandwiches* and particularly for *autograph* (pronounced /'ɔ:təgrɑ:f/), which is a new word but is very similar to the German word *Autogram*.
 - If anyone in your class speaks Finnish, ask them how to pronounce the names. (Otherwise don't worry about the pronunciation.)



Group A

Yrjö and his girl friend Orvokki live in Finland. They are members of a (not very famous) rock band, and they are now on tour in Germany. Yesterday they got up at (1) _____ and went to a pub for breakfast. They drank (3) _____ and ate some sandwiches, and met (5) _____ . Orvokki spoke English with them, and they took (7) _____ . They were all very excited, and asked Yrjö for his autograph. That evening they all walked to (9) _____ with Yrjö and Orvokki, and they all bought tickets for the rock concert.

First work with another member of your group, and write the questions:

- (1) _____ ?
- (3) _____ ?
- (5) _____ ?
- (7) _____ ?
- (9) _____ ?

Show the questions to your teacher, then stand up, find a new partner from the other group, ask your questions and write the answers.



Group B

Yrjö and his girl friend Orvokki live in Finland. They are members of a (not very famous) rock band, and they are now on tour in Germany. Yesterday they got up at two o'clock in the afternoon and went to a (2) _____ for breakfast. They drank some beer and ate (4) _____, and met a group of nice American tourists. Orvokki spoke (6) _____ with them, and they took lots of photos. They were all very excited, and asked Yrjö (8) _____. That evening they all walked to the club with Yrjö and Orvokki, and they all bought (10) _____.

First work with another member of your group, and write the questions:

(2) _____?

(4) _____?

(6) _____?

(8) _____?

(10) _____?

Show the questions to your teacher, then stand up, find a new partner from the other group, ask your questions and write the answers.

