

Today is different (Grammar)

- Description:** Card game in which students ask each other questions to get pairs of cards.
- Use with or after:** *English Network 2 (New Edition)*, Unit 3, Step 2.
- Skill:** Grammar
- Focus:** Present simple and present progressive
- Time:** 15 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out all six pages of this file.
 - Make a copy of the second page (*How to play the game*) for each student.
 - Make copies of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth pages, on stiff paper if possible, for every four members of your class.
 - Cut along the dotted lines to obtain decks of 32 cards. (Ideally you should use a different colour of 120 g/m² paper for each deck of cards.)
- Procedure:**
- Divide the class into groups of four if possible. (The game can also be played in groups of five or six.) Each group should sit around a table.
 - Give each student a copy of the instruction sheet and go through it with the whole class.
 - Give each group of four a complete deck of 32 cards. If you have a group of five or six, remove one pair of cards from the deck before giving it to them. (In a group of four, each student will get eight cards. In a group of five, each will get six cards. In a group of six, each will get five cards.)
 - As they play the game, you should monitor and help with vocabulary, question structures and pronunciation if necessary. The names used on the cards are all listed with their phonetic transcriptions on page 180 of the student's book.
 - Insist that the students address each other by name whenever they ask a question or say that they don't know a particular answer. (This is a good opportunity to make them learn each other's names, if they have not done so already.)

How to play the card game *Today is different*

- Form groups of four, five or six players. Each group should sit around a table.
- Make sure you know the first names of everybody in your group.
- Decide who will be the *dealer*.
- The dealer should mix the cards and deal them out to everybody, face down.
- Look at your cards. Some of them are about things that people *usually do* (present simple) and some are about things that the same people *are doing today* (present progressive). The goal of the game is to get as many *pairs* of cards as you can.
- Have you got two cards about the same person or people? Put those two cards face up on the table and read them to everybody.
- The player on the dealer's left starts and asks another player (by name!) a question to see if he or she has a certain card, for example:
 - Veronica, what does Elizabeth usually do?"*
 - Wolfgang, what are Paul and Diana doing today?*
 - Claudia, what do Mark and Maureen usually do?*
 - Hans, what is David doing today?*
- If you have that card, read it to everybody and then give it to the person who asked you – but only if the question was correct and the person said your name. That person should put the pair of cards face up on the table and then ask someone else another question.
- If someone asks you for a card, and you do not have it, say "*Sorry, Hans, I don't know.*" (You must say the person's name.) Then it is your turn to ask someone a question.
- When you get a pair, put the two cards face up on the table in front of you.
- At the end, the winner is the player with the most *pairs* of cards on the table.

Ann usually types letters
all day long.

Today Ann is relaxing by
the swimming pool.

Bob usually plays the
piano.

Today Bob is playing the
violin. He's very talented.

Cathy usually sings
beautifully.

Today Cathy is singing very
badly. Perhaps she's ill.

David usually does the
washing up after dinner.

Today David is installing a
new dishwasher.

Elizabeth usually writes
computer programs.

Today Elizabeth is walking
in the country.

Fred usually works as a
gardener.

Today Fred is flying to
Tenerife.

George usually gets upset
about little things.

Today George is feeling
very relaxed and friendly.

Jenny usually does
research on the internet.

Today Jenny is doing
research at the library.



Karen and Simon usually talk for hours on the telephone.

Today Karen and Simon are not speaking to each other.

Mark and Maureen usually complain about everything.

Today Mark and Maureen are chatting happily with everybody.

Nina and Albert usually meet at a pub after work.

Today Nina and Albert are going to the fitness studio after work.

Paul and Diana usually go to work by bus.

Today Paul and Diana are going to work by bicycle.

Rob and Kath usually watch television in the evenings.

Today Rob and Kath are watching a play at a theatre.

Susan and Steve usually drink mineral water with their meals.

Today Susan and Steve are drinking red wine with their dinner.

Tim and Claire usually go jogging after work.

Today Tim and Claire are playing tennis.

Patricia and Samuel usually feel bored and unhappy.

Today Patricia and Samuel are having a good time.

