

Past progressive quartet card game (Grammar)

Description: A card game to practice the past progressive and the simple past

Use with or after: *English Network 3 (New Edition)*, Unit 4, Step 2.

Skill: Grammar

Focus: Students ask questions about what people were doing at a certain time, in order to get cards to complete a quartet.

Time: 25 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 three, four or five 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 three or five.) Each group should sit around a table and make sure they all know each other's names.
- Give each student a copy of the instruction sheet, and go through the instructions with the whole class.
- Give each group a complete deck of 32 cards. On each card there is a sentence telling what someone *was doing* when something terrible happened in their town. The object of the game is to get four cards about the same person or couple, by asking questions using the past progressive and the simple past.
- As you monitor, insist that they address each other by name and that they formulate the questions correctly.

The words used in this game (except for *bomb*, *collapse* and *break out*) are all listed in the *Dictionary* section on pages 160-185 of *English Network 3 (New Edition)*.

The names of the people on the cards, with their pronunciations, are all listed in the *People and places* section on page 185.

How to play the *Past progressive quartet* card game

- Form groups of three, four or five players. Each group should sit around a table.
- This game is about a town in which four terrible things have happened recently:
 - a fire broke out at the factory on Monday
 - a plane crashed near the motorway on Tuesday
 - a bomb [bɒm] exploded at the airport on Wednesday
 - a bridge collapsed [kə 'læpst] and fell down into the river on Thursday
- The goal of the game is to get as many quartets as possible. In each quartet there are four cards telling what a certain person (or couple) **was doing** when each of these four terrible things happened. In other words, you have to get four cards that are about the same person or people.
- In each group someone (the *dealer*) mixes the cards, deals out five to each player and puts the rest in a pile face down in the centre of the table.
- Look at your cards to see if you have any that fit together.
- The player on the dealer's left starts and asks another player (by name) if he or she has a certain card, for example:

Veronica, what was Barbara doing when the plane crashed?
Wolfgang, what were Jane and Henry doing when the bridge collapsed?
- If you have the card, you must read out what it says (for example: *Barbara was having her ears pierced when the plane crashed*) and then give the card to the person who asked you for it. That person can then ask you or someone else another question.
- If someone asks you for a card, and you do not have it, say something like this: *"Sorry, but I'm afraid I don't know what Barbara was doing when the plane crashed."* In this case, the person who asked takes one card from the top of the pile in the centre of the table (as long as there are still some cards there). Then it is your turn to ask somebody another question.
- When you get a quartet, spread the four cards out on the table so everyone can check that that they are really about the same person or people. If you have made a mistake, you have to pick up the four cards again and go on playing with them.
- When all eight quartets are on the table, the player who has the most quartets is the winner.

Andrew was driving on the motorway when the fire broke out.

Andrew was playing the piano when the plane crashed.

Andrew was working at the airport when the bomb exploded.

Andrew was lying in bed in the hospital when the bridge collapsed.

Barbara was talking to her sister on the telephone when the fire broke out.

Barbara was having her ears pierced when the plane crashed.

Barbara was queuing at the post office when the bomb exploded.

Barbara was jogging by the river when the bridge collapsed.

Paul was painting a picture when the fire broke out.

Paul was sitting on the plane when it crashed.

Paul was walking on crutches when the bomb exploded.

Paul was telling a reporter about the plane crash when the bridge collapsed.

Virginia was visiting her grandparents when the fire broke out.

Virginia was riding her bicycle to work when the plane crashed.

Virginia was having her hair done when the bomb exploded.

Virginia was writing poetry when the bridge collapsed.

Liz and Frank were saying good night at her door when the fire broke out.

Liz and Frank were collecting mushrooms in the forest when the plane crashed.

Liz and Frank were cooking a meal together when the bomb exploded.

Liz and Frank were looking at the bridge when it collapsed.

Ilsa and Graham were doing the washing up when the fire broke out.

Ilsa and Graham were sitting in a traffic jam when the plane crashed.

Ilsa and Graham were driving to the airport when the bomb exploded.

Ilsa and Graham were attending a funeral when the bridge collapsed.

Jane and Henry were working in the factory when the fire broke out.

Jane and Henry were watching television when the plane crashed.

Jane and Henry were just leaving the airport when the bomb exploded.

Jane and Henry were driving across the bridge when it collapsed.

Sharon and Stuart were dancing when the fire broke out.

Sharon and Stuart were drinking wine when the plane crashed.

Sharon and Stuart were watching an opera when the bomb exploded.

Sharon and Stuart were driving towards the bridge when it collapsed.