



Grammar Game

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Debbie Centamore

- »» Started at FAESL in 1994
- »» Specialty in: pronunciation & Auditory processing issues
- »» Resident grammar nerd



What grammar points are hard to teach?



The adult brain

Adults learn differently

1

GRASS ANALOGY

You have to walk on the grass a lot to make a pathway

2

FOSSILIZATION

Old habits are hard to change, both theoretically and in practice

3

ATTITUDE TOWARDS SCHOOL

Embarrassed students drop out

Are you comfortable?

- What is your strategy?
- What can we do to make students more comfortable?
- Be in a good mood
- Make a mistake
- Model bouncing back
- Play a game

BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS



ABE is *survival* English

- No poetry
- Use cognates
- Talk about food
- Choose ONE answer and stick to it



Let's do a little comparative linguistics dive



What is L1 interference?

Grammar Feature	English	Chinese	Spanish	Arabic	Portuguese	Haitian Creole
Word Order	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Verb-Subject-Object (VSO)	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)	Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)
Tenses	Verb tense-based (past, present, future)	No verb tense (context-based)	Verb tense-based (conjugation)	Verb tense-based (conjugation)	Verb tense-based (conjugation)	No verb tense (context-based)
Articles	Definite and indefinite articles (the, a, an)	No articles	Definite and indefinite articles (el, la, un, una)	Definite and indefinite articles (al, a, an)	Definite and indefinite articles (o, a, um, uma)	No articles
Plural Form	Plural (add -s/-es)	No plural form (context-based)	Plural (add -s)	Plural (add -at, -in, or -un)	Plural (add -s)	Plural (add -s)

Grammar Feature	English	Chinese	Spanish	Arabic	Portuguese	Haitian Creole
Pronouns	Gender-specific (he, she, it)	No gender distinctions	Gender-specific (él, ella)	Gender-specific (huwa, heya)	Gender-specific (ele, ela)	No gender distinction
Adjectives	Typically precedes noun (big dog)	Typically precedes noun (big dog)	Typically follow noun (perro grande)	Typically follow noun (kalb kabeer)	Typically follow noun (cão grande)	Typically follow noun (chenn gwo)
Prepositions	Prepositions (in, on, at)	Postpositions (behind, under)	Prepositions (en, sobre)	Prepositions (fi, ala)	Prepositions (em, para)	Prepositions (nan, sou)
Question Formation	Auxiliary verb (Do you like?)	Question particles or word order	Inversion of subject and verb	Inversion or question particles	Inversion of subject and verb	Question particles or word order

Chinese

- English: I am hungry.

Literal Chinese: 我饿了。

(Wǒ è le.)

"I hungry already."

- English: They are playing soccer.

Literal Chinese: 他们在踢足球。

(Tāmen zài tī zúqiú.)

"They at kick soccer."

- English: What time is it?

Literal Chinese: 现在几点？

(Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?)

"Now what hour?"

- English: She likes to read books.

Literal Chinese: 她喜欢读书。

(Tā xǐhuān dú shū.)

"She likes read books."

- English: Can you help me?

Literal Chinese: 你能帮助我吗？

(Nǐ néng bāngzhù wǒ ma?)

You can help me?"

Chinese

- English: I want to go home.

Literal Chinese: 我想回家。

(Wǒ xiǎng huí jiā.)

"I want return home."

- English: It is raining outside.

Literal Chinese: 外面在下雨。

(Wàimiàn zài xià yǔ.)

"Outside is raining."

- English: We are going to the store.

Literal Chinese: 我们去商店。

(Wǒmen qù shāngdiàn.)

"We go store."

- English: He is good friend.

Literal Chinese: 他是好朋友。

(Tā shì hǎo péngyǒu.)

"He is good friend."

- English: I need some water.

Literal Chinese: 我需要一些水。

(Wǒ xūyào yīxiē shuǐ.)

"I need some water."

Arabic

- English: I am tired.

Literal Arabic: أنا متعب.

(Ana muta'ab.)

"I tired."

- English: Where is the restaurant?

Literal Arabic: أين المطعم؟

(Ayna al-mat'am?)

"Where restaurant?"

- English: I love this place.

Literal Arabic: أنا أحب هذا المكان.

(Ana uhibbu hadha al-makan.)

"I love this place."

- English: Can you help me?

Literal Arabic: هل يمكنك مساعدتي؟

(Hal yumkinuka musaadati?)

"Can you help me?"

- English: What time is it?

Literal Arabic: كم الساعة؟

(Kam as-saa'a?)

"How many the hour?"

Arabic

- English: It is very hot today.

Literal Arabic: اليوم حار جداً.

(Al-yawm haar jiddan.)

"Today hot very."

- English: I need some water.

Literal Arabic: أحتاج إلى بعض الماء.

(Ahtaj ila ba'd al-ma'a.)

"I need to some water."

- English: Please, wait a moment.

Literal Arabic: من فضلك، انتظر لحظة.

(Min fadlik, intazir lahza.)

"Please, wait moment."

- English: Do you speak English?

Literal Arabic: هل تتحدث الإنجليزية؟

(Hal tatahadath al-ingliziyya?)

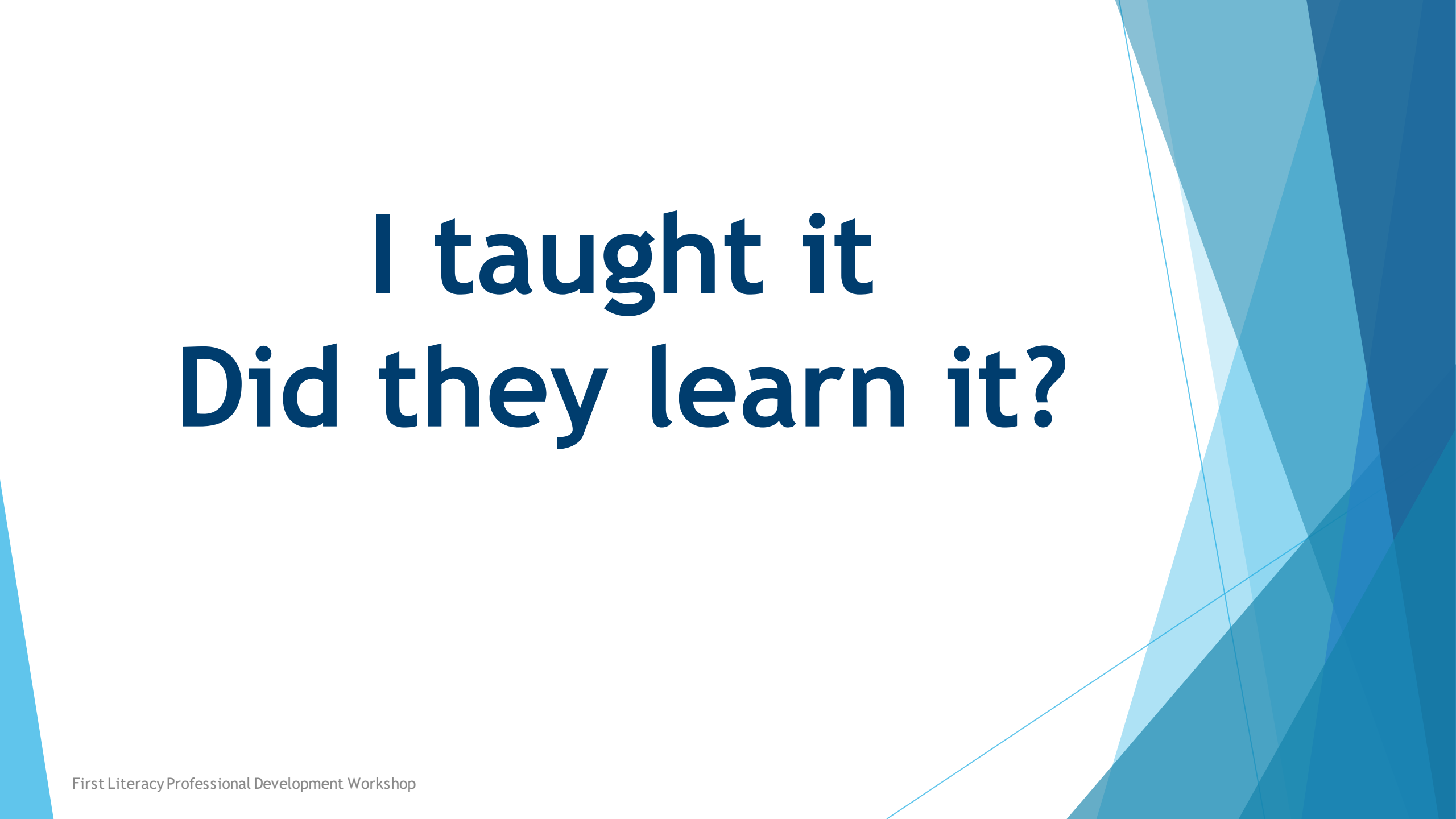
"Do you speak the English?"

- English: I am lost.

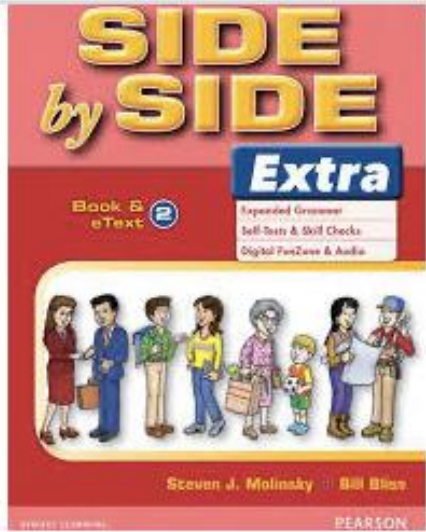
Literal Arabic: أنا ضائع.

(Ana da'i'a.)

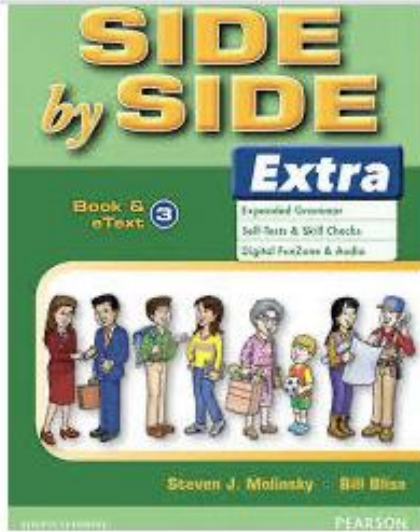
"I lost."

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect.

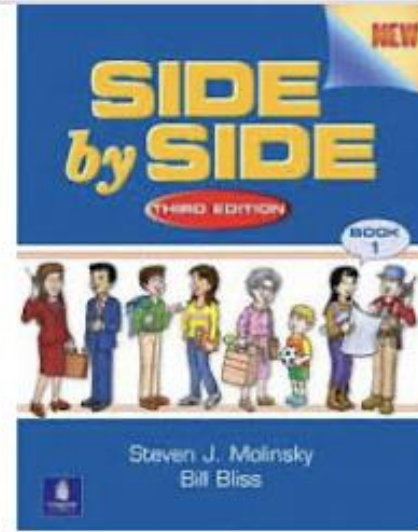
I taught it Did they learn it?



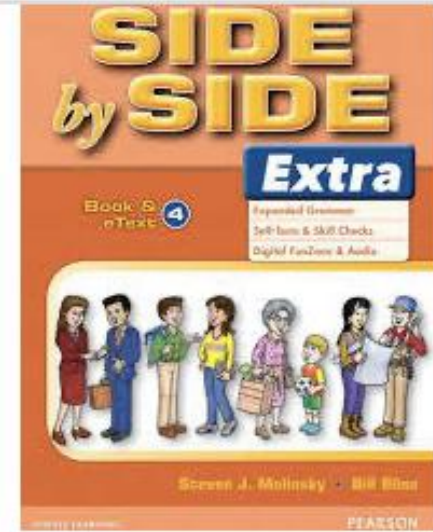
NEW: Side by Side
Side Extra 2...



NEW: Side by Side
Side Extra 3...



Side by Side 1
by Molinsky,...



NEW: Side by Side
Side Extra 4...

Will or Going to?

Will:

Spontaneous decisions: I'll have another cup of coffee.

Predictions I think It will rain tomorrow.

Intentions, promises I will finish my project by Friday.

Threats or promises: I will never forget this!

Ask or offer help: Will you help me?
I'll help you

Going to:

Already planned:
I'm going to Italy next summer

I'm going home after class

I'm going to tell you!

Teach Past tense regular verbs with picture card

- ❖ There are 3 groups
 - Present ONE at a time
 - Only show cards that follow that one rule

Voiced Past Tense Regular Verbs



Play



Call



Turn



Carry



Snow



Rain



Cry

Voiceless Past Tense Regular Verbs



Finish



Talk



Work



Push



Stop



Erase

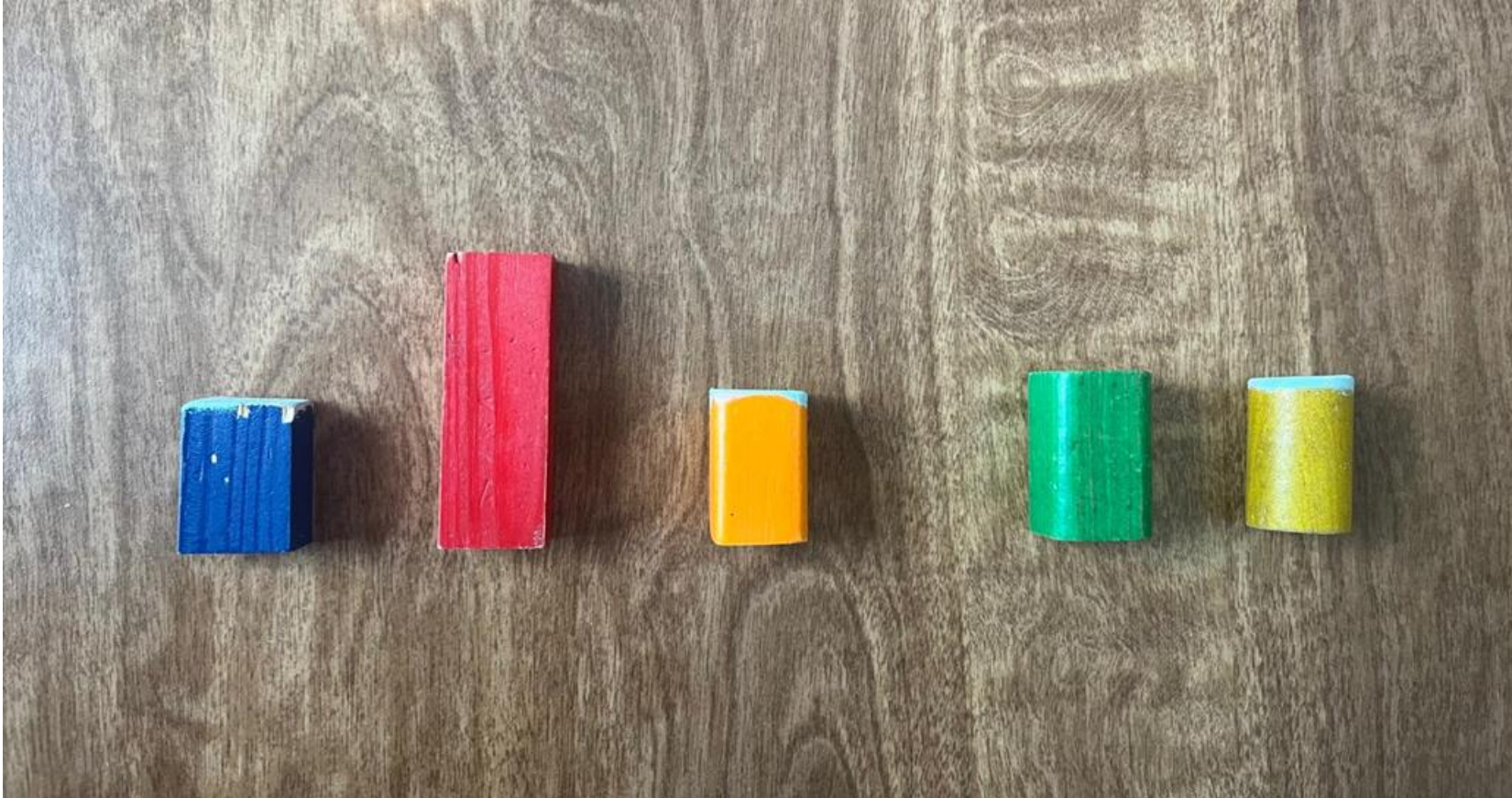


Watch

Past Questions

	Question word (optional)	do/does	subject person	verb in base form	complement
		did			
1	Where	do	you	work?	
2	---	Do	you	have	a cell phone?
3	Why	does	he	take	the bus?
4	What kind of car	do	they	have?	
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Blocks to hold place



Game to engage all:

- Each student brings in a small object
- Put objects in a box, but don't let other students see the object
- Teacher: write down WHO is putting each object in the box
- Call 3 students to sit in front
 - Play: "This is mine"



	Verb to be		
	Rule	Example	
1	Origin	I'm from Natick	
2	Status	She's married	
3	Religion	He's Christian	
4	Profession	They are architects	
5	Age*	He's 28	
6	State of being	I'm tired	
7	Characteristics	He's tall	
8	with - ing	She's talking	
9	location	I'm at work	
10	Weather	It's cold	
11	Time	It's 11 AM	



Excellent websites

Activities for ESL Students

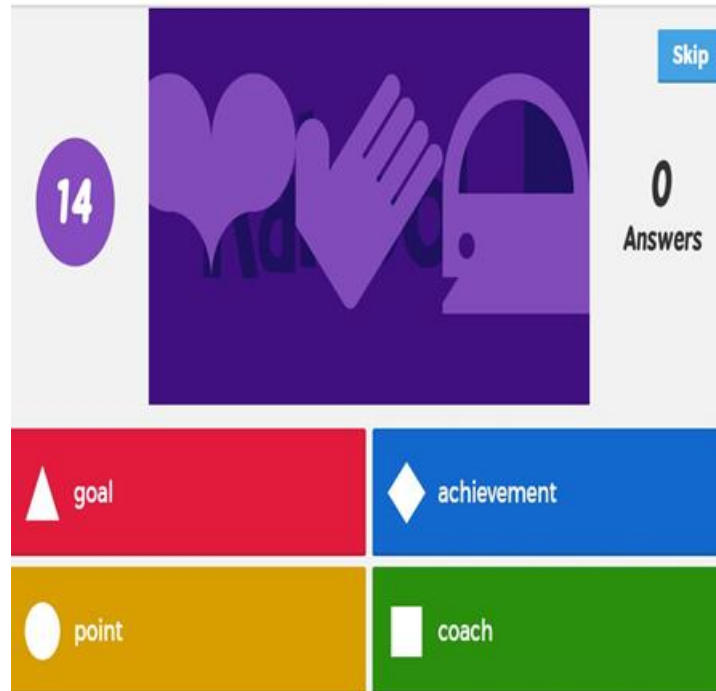
a4esl.org

es, tests, exercises and puzzles to help you learn English as a Second Language (l
t of *The Internet TESL Journal* (*iteslj.org*) has thousands of contributions by many

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	Bilin
	Arabic-English
	Bulgarian-English
	Burmese (Myanmar)-English
	Catalan-English
	Chinese-English
	Creole-English
	Croatian-English
	Czech-English
	Danish-English

A4ESL.org

My _____ for next year is to learn 100 new vocabulary words.



[Kahoot!](https://kahoot.it)



[YouGlish](https://youglish.com)

IN AT ON

- If you can stand up, it's **ON**
- If you can't stand up, it's **IN**

Examples:

Boat. Ship? **ON**

Rowboat? **IN**

Train: **ON**

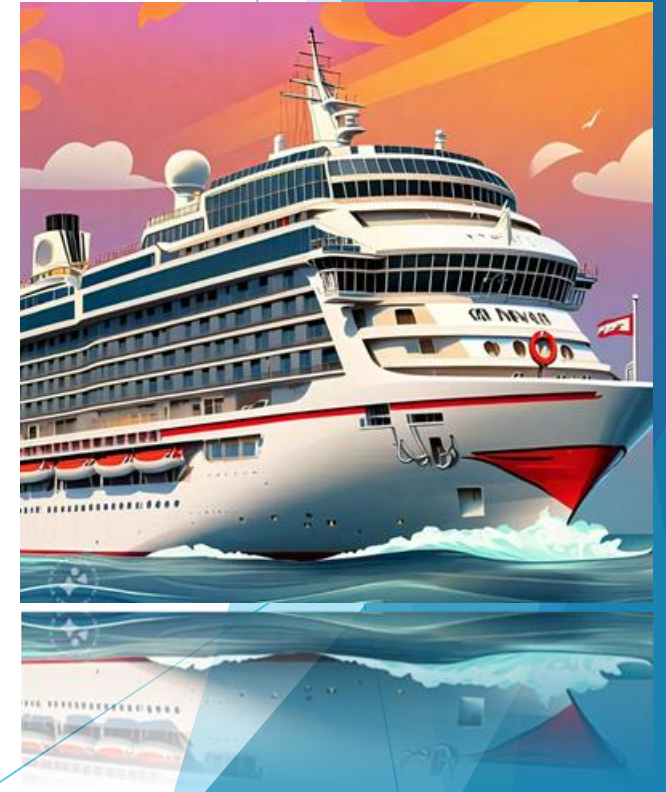
Plane: **ON**

Bus: **ON**

Car: **IN**

Taxi: **IN**

Uber: **IN**





It's time for the
elephant in the
room:

**Present
Perfect**

Start by giving useful examples only.

No rules

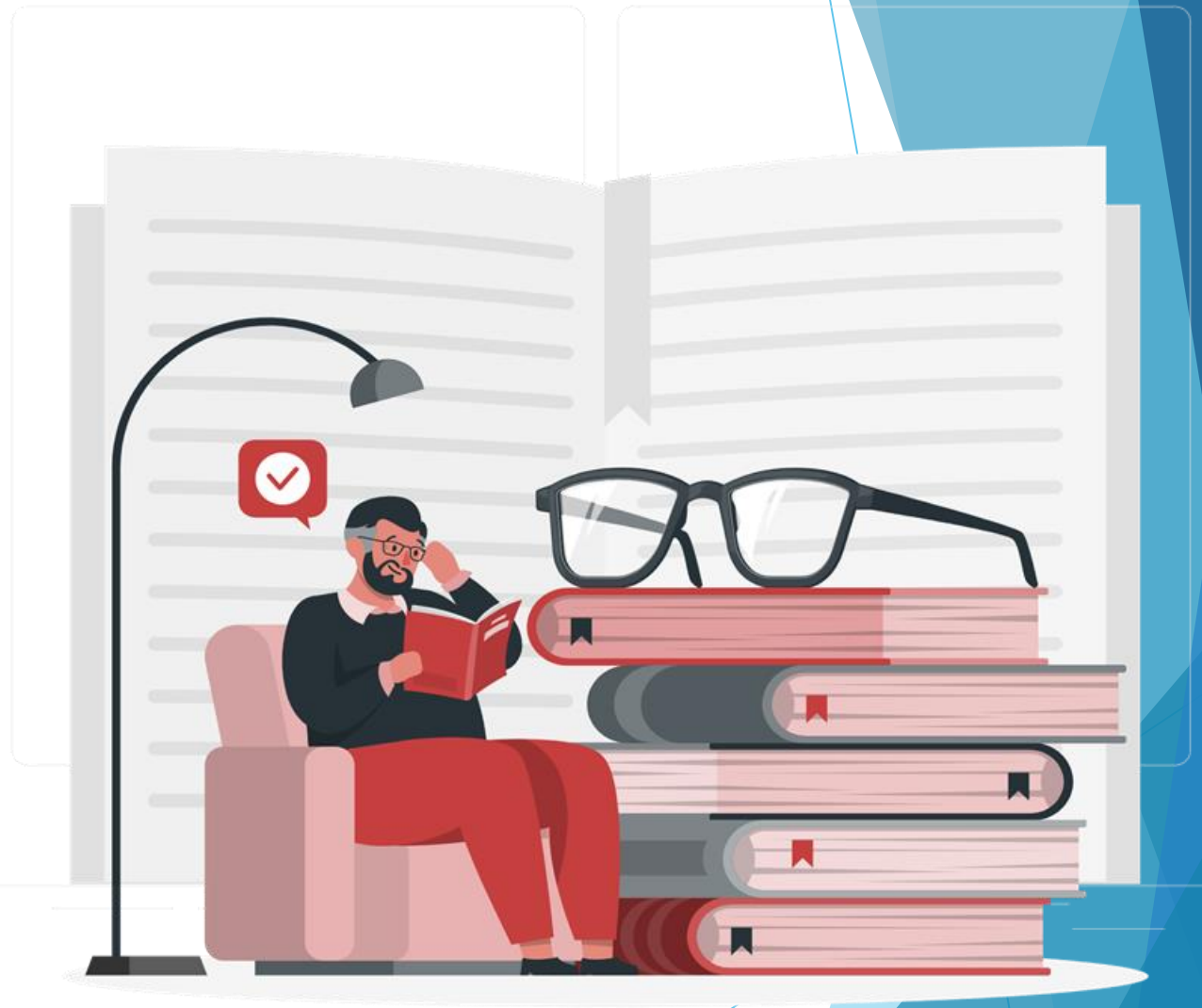
❖ **HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE?**

❖ **HOW LONG HAVE YOU STUDIED HERE?**

❖ **HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT THE COMPANY?**

Been / Gone

- He has gone = he is still there
- He has been = he went and came back



Repeated Past Action



I have bought a Christmas tree here 3 times.



I have called my mother every day for a year.

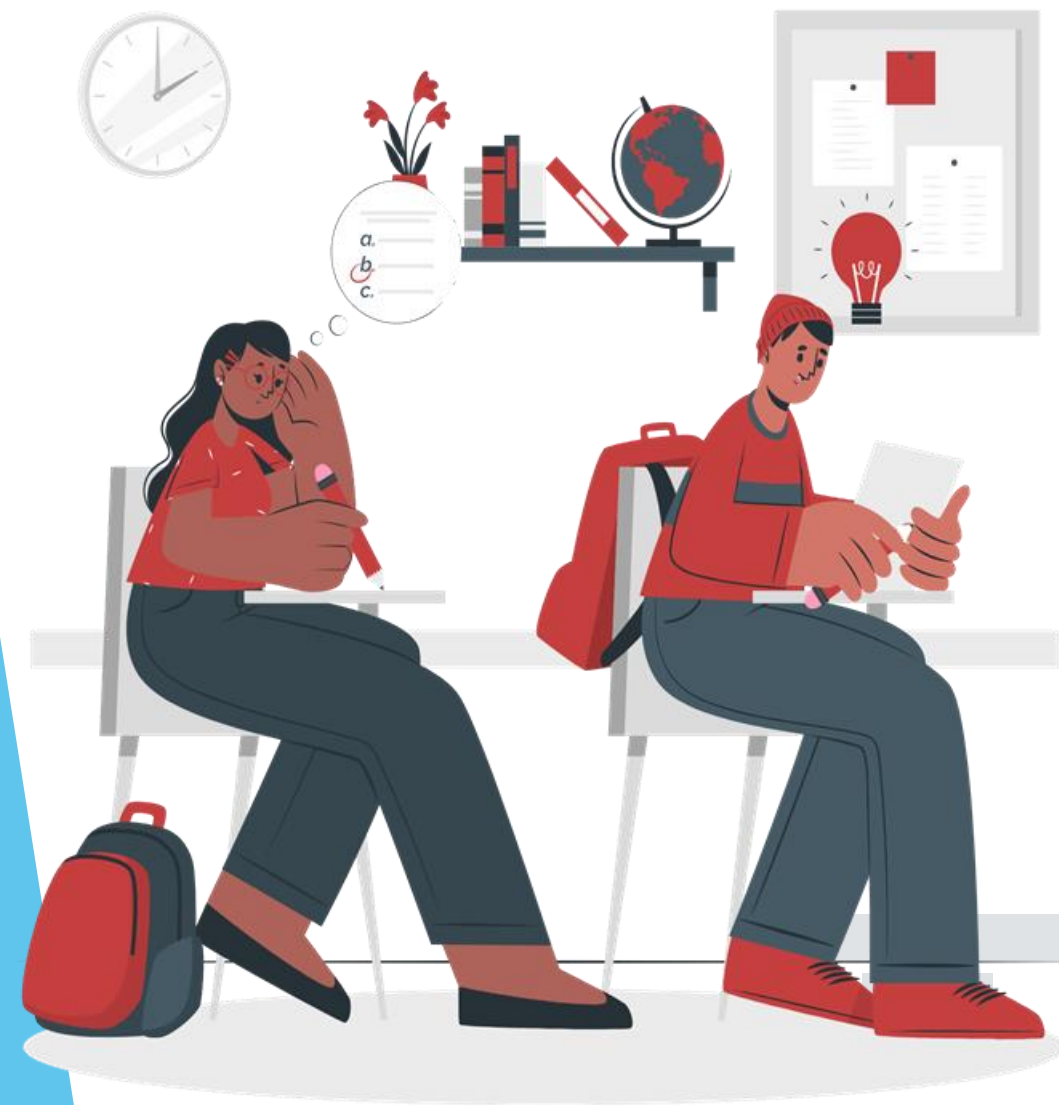


She has brought her own bags to the grocery store 6 times.

Next: Ever

- Have you ever lost money in the street?
- Have you ever found money in the street?
- Have you ever been to NYC?





Next: Never

- I've never ridden a horse.
- I've never been to China.
- She's never worked on a farm.



Thank you!

Debbie Centamore

 **IG:** @englishwithdebbie

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