

Correct me if I'm wrong

Target language: using sentence stress to correct

Activity type: information gap

When to use: Use this activity after Lesson 6.3.

Time taken: 20 minutes

Preparation: Photocopy one worksheet for each pair of students in the class.

Procedure

Divide the class into two groups. Give half the students a Student A worksheet and the other half a Student B worksheet and ask the students to read the two texts and check any words they are not sure about with each other.

Explain that each student has one correct text and one text with ten underlined mistakes in it. Pair a Student A with a Student B and ask each student to check the facts in their incorrect texts with their partners, e.g. *Andrew Grady is 33, isn't he?* The partners should verify the information or correct it if it is incorrect, stressing the appropriate word e.g. *No, he isn't actually, he's 23.* Student A should check first, then Student B.

When the students have corrected all ten mistakes in their articles, check the differences with the whole class and ask them to discuss what they think about the two men they read about.

Answers

Student A: 37,000 miles not 27,000 miles; Arthur Blessit not Arthur Smith; 1996 not 1992; a waiter not a chef; the side of the road, not a park; 20-25 miles not 30-35 miles; swimming not skiing; the use of a shower, not a car; 6,000 not 3,000 calories; for fun, not for his health.

Student B: 33 not 23 years old; 13,000 not 30,000 mile journey; he wanted to watch England not Scotland; nine African countries not seven; a £10 tent not a £100 tent; he hitchhiked in Australia, not Canada; appeared on TV not radio; air ticket from Ghana not Morocco; three weeks not three days; *My Magic Thumb* not *My Magic Finger*.

Correct me if I'm wrong

Student A

Ten of the underlined facts in text A are incorrect. Check them by asking your partner questions, and correct them where necessary.

Text A

Walking the world

Gary Hause is, step by step, walking around the world and walking towards a new Guinness world record. Nicknamed 'The Walkingman', Gary has already completed just over half of the 27,000 miles he needs to break the existing record set by Arthur Smith.

Gary started his walk in 1992 when he walked from Florida to California in the USA. In the winter he works as a cook and then spends the rest of the year travelling. Rather than carry a backpack, he pushes a pram in which he keeps his tent, clothes, food and first aid kit. He sleeps in a park in a tent at night and walks 30-35 miles during the day, spending the rest of his time meeting the local people, visiting places and enjoying leisure activities such as skiing. He has felt the kindness of many people who have offered him a meal or, occasionally, the use of a car. To keep going he has to eat about 3,000 calories a day and he uses the little money he spends on necessities. When asked why he does it, he says that he mostly does it for his health and because he has the opportunity to meet people and to see the world.

Text B

Thumbs up for football fan

Andrew Grady a 33-year-old musician from the north of England has finally arrived in South Africa after an epic 13,000 mile journey. Wanting to watch England play in the World Cup and show just how friendly and generous people can be, he decided to hitchhike there and spent two months travelling through France, Spain, Morocco and nine other African countries including Western Sahara, Mali and Ghana. He set off from London in April with just a backpack, a £10 tent, a few clothes, a video camera and a first aid kit and arrived in South Africa two months later.

This journey is not the first time he has hitchhiked, having done it in the UK, the USA and Australia before. During the trip he appeared on TV in several countries and was able to get regular lifts from kind strangers but in the end he only got to the match in time because of a kind businessman who bought him a \$1,500 plane ticket from Ghana to Johannesburg.

His friend and cameraman Merrick Adams joined him on the last three weeks of the journey as Andrew is intending to turn his journey into a film called *My Magic Thumb* and has a website with the same name.



Student B

Ten of the underlined facts in text B are incorrect. Check them by asking your partner questions, and correct them where necessary.

Text A

Walking the world

Gary Hause is, step by step, walking around the world and walking towards a new Guinness world record. Nicknamed 'The Walkingman', Gary has already completed just over half of the 37,000 miles he needs to break the existing record set by Arthur Blessit.

Gary started his walk in 1996 when he walked from Florida to California in the USA. In the winter he works as a waiter and then spends the rest of the year travelling. Rather than carry a backpack, he pushes a pram in which he keeps his tent, clothes, food and first aid kit. He sleeps at the side of the road in a tent

at night and walks 20-25 miles during the day, spending the rest of his time meeting the local people, visiting places and enjoying leisure activities such as swimming. He has felt the kindness of many people who have offered him a meal or, occasionally, the use of a shower. To keep going he has to eat about 6,000 calories a day and he uses the little money he spends on necessities.

When asked why he does it, he says that he mostly does it for fun and because he has the opportunity to meet people and to see the world.

Text B

Thumbs up for football fan

Andrew Grady a 23-year-old musician from the north of England has finally arrived in South Africa after an epic 30,000 mile journey. Wanting to watch Scotland play in the World Cup and show just how friendly and generous people can be, he decided to hitchhike there and spent two months travelling through France, Spain, Morocco and seven other African countries including Western Sahara, Mali and Ghana. He set off from London in April with just a backpack, a £100 tent, a few clothes, a video camera and a first aid kit and arrived in South Africa two months later.

This journey is not the first time he has hitchhiked, having done it in the UK, the USA and Canada before. During the trip he appeared on radio in several countries and was able to get regular lifts from kind strangers but in the end he only got to the match in time because of a kind businessman who bought him a \$1,500 plane ticket from Morocco to Johannesburg.

His friend and cameraman Merrick Adams joined him on the last three days of the journey as Andrew is intending to turn his journey into a film called *My Magic Finger* and has a website with the same name.

Contradict me

Point:	contrastive stress
Minimum level:	intermediate
Game type:	a card game quiz for three or four players
Approximate time:	25 minutes

Rules

- 1 The aim of the game is to win as many cards as possible.
- 2 Place the pack of cards face down on the table.
- 3 Take turns to pick up a card and read the sentence at the top of the card to the player sitting on your right. (The sentence at the bottom shows the mistake.)
 - 4 This player must reply by correcting the mistake and using contrastive stress. The reply should begin with a phrase such as *You mean ...?, I thought ...?, Don't you mean ...?*
- 5 The reader should say if the response was correct or not. The other players should also help to decide.
- 6 If the response is correct, the player who gave the response wins the card. Otherwise, the reader keeps the card.

Preparation

Copy and cut out a set of cards for each group of three or four students in the class.

Presentation

- 1 Write on the board the following two sentences and invite students to correct the mistakes:
My mother's name is John.
The formula for water is H₃O.
- 2 Write up the following sentences as possible responses:
You mean your father's name is John!
I thought the formula for water was H₂O.

Read out the pairs of sentences to demonstrate the contrastive stress on *father's* and 2. Drill the sentences as mini-dialogues. Provide some more ways of beginning the response, eg *Surely you mean ...?, Don't you mean ...? and Oh? I was told ...*

- 3 Say a few more contentious sentences, perhaps from the game, and invite students to correct the mistakes. Remind them to change the pronoun, as in the example *My mother's name* above where *my* is changed to *your* in the response.

Conducting the game

- 1 Divide the class into groups of three or four and give each group a set of cards.
- 2 Explain and/or give out the rules.
- 3 During the game move around the class helping to resolve any disputes. (Note that responses other than those on the cards are possible.)

Follow-up

Students make up their own statements with mistakes for their classmates to correct.



My mother's name is John.

... your father's name is John!

The capital of France is London.

... the capital of Britain is London / the capital of France is Paris!

I had dinner at 8.30 this morning.

... you had breakfast at 8.30 this morning / you had dinner at 8.30 this evening!

Robert de Niro is a well known actress.

... Robert de Niro is a well known actor!

Brazil is the biggest country in North America.

... Brazil is the biggest country in South America / Canada is the biggest country in North America!

The Greeks built the pyramids.

... the Egyptians built the pyramids!

My sister is a policeman.

... your sister is a policewoman / your brother is a policeman!

The Atlantic is the world's biggest ocean.

... the Pacific is the world's biggest ocean!

I saw the news on the radio.

... You heard the news on the radio / you saw the news on the TV!

It was hot so I put my coat on.

... it was cold so you put your coat on / it was hot so you took your coat off!

I'd like a piece of cola please.

... you'd like a cup/glass of cola!

The lion is in the dog family.

... the lion is in the cat family / the wolf is in the dog family!

Rules

- 1 The aim of the game is to win as many cards as possible.
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- 4 This player must reply by correcting the mistake and using contrastive stress. The reply should begin with a phrase such as *You mean ...?, I thought ...?, Don't you mean ...?*
- 5 The reader should say if the response was correct or not. The other players should also help to decide.
- 6 If the response is correct, the player who gave the response wins the card. Otherwise, the reader keeps the card.



The sun sets in the morning.

... the sun rises in the morning / the sun sets in the evening!

I like to smoke a gin and tonic in the evening.

... you like to drink a gin and tonic in the evening / you like to smoke a cigarette in the evening!

The elephant is the biggest animal in the sea.

... the elephant is the biggest animal on the land / the whale is the biggest animal in the sea!

Have you read the latest film?

... have I seen the latest film / read the latest book!

The Nile is the world's shortest river.

... the Nile is the world's longest river!

These gloves are too small; they hurt my feet.

... these socks/shoes are too small; they hurt your feet / these gloves are too small; they hurt your hands!

Everest is the lowest mountain in the world.

... Everest is the highest mountain in the world!

Beethoven became blind near the end of his life.

... Beethoven became deaf near the end of his life!

Cleopatra lived in Australia.

... Cleopatra lived in Africa!

Pele was a great Argentinian footballer.

... Pele was a great Brazilian footballer!

New Delhi is the capital of Kenya.

... New Delhi is the capital of India / Nairobi is the capital of Kenya!

Gold is a very cheap metal.

... gold is a very expensive metal!

Kangaroos come from Austria.

... kangaroos come from Australia!

Carrots are my favourite fruit.

... carrots are your favourite vegetable!

There were five people in the Beatles.

... there were four people in the Beatles!

Two plus two equals five.

... two plus two equals four / two plus three equals five!

The formula for water is H₂O.

... the formula for water is H₂O!

I fell upstairs and broke my leg.

... you fell downstairs and broke your leg!

