

An alternative arrangement

Aims

Practice telling a story about a travel experience.

Language focus

Grammar

Reported commands and advice

Set-up

Group work

Lesson link

For use after Unit 5, Lesson C

Time

25 minutes

Preparation

Duplicate one copy of the worksheet for each group of students and mount each sheet on a piece of construction paper. Cut apart the strips and mix them up.

4. Have students work together to put the strips in order. Appoint one student as the leader in each group. This student begins by repeating the sentence beginning *I called the travel agent . . .* and asking: *Who has the next sentence?* Students who think their sentence might be next read their sentences. The group decides which sentence is next. They continue in this way, reading their sentences aloud and deciding on the order, until the story is complete.
5. As students are working, walk around to monitor the activity and help as needed. Make sure that everyone in each group is participating. Students should continue to be active in the discussion even after their part of the story is in place.
6. When the time is up, check the answers by having one group read their story aloud. Ask if another group ordered the story differently. If so, have that group read their version and have the class decide if one is better than the other.
7. To follow-up, ask if anyone in the class has had a similar experience.

Procedure

1. Tell the students they are going to do an activity in which they put sentences in order to tell a story about a travel experience.
2. Put students in groups and distribute the sentence strips. If possible, make groups of 12. If this is not possible, make smaller groups and give some students more than one strip. In each group, each student receives one or more strips. Give students some time to read the sentences. Answer any questions about vocabulary.
3. To help students get started, tell them that the first sentence is *Two years ago, my wife and I had a one-week vacation in February, so we decided to visit the city of Salvador, in Brazil.* Ask students: *What do you think happened next?* Elicit the sentence beginning (*I called the travel agent and asked him . . .*).

An alternative arrangement

Two years ago, my wife and I had a one-week vacation in February, so we decided to visit the city of Salvador, in Brazil.

I called the travel agent and asked him to book plane tickets and a one-week stay at a good hotel.

When we finally arrived at the hotel in Salvador, the front desk clerk told us that we didn't have a reservation. There was no room for us.

We asked to go to another hotel, but the clerk told us sadly that it was Carnival. No other hotel had a room for us.

Just then, the chef from the hotel restaurant walked by. He introduced himself and said his name was Pedro.

He said he was sorry about our situation and asked, "Would you consider 'an alternative' arrangement?"

We asked him what kind of alternative arrangement he meant.

He said that his mother had a large house, and we could spend the week with her.

We had no hotel and no friends in the city. We agreed and went to Pedro's mother's house.

Pedro's mother welcomed us as if we were part of her own family. We had the best vacation of our lives.

We toured Salvador, went to the beach, and bought some beautiful things. But most importantly, we made new friends.

And next year? Pedro and his mother are coming to visit us!