
Two students are discussing their English lessons and they prefer to learn the language.

Comprehension activity

Read the extract below before listening and try to guess what words could go in the gaps. Next, listen to the conversation 2 or 3 times and after listening try to complete the gaps. Listen again to check. Finally, check with the audio script on the other page.

Sam : I'm not _____ in the present perfect! I need to _____ more words. It doesn't really matter if my tenses aren't quite right as long as people understand me.

Jo: She did give us some new words though.

Sam: I know but she didn't _____ any of them on the board. She was too busy talking.

Jo: I wrote them in my book if you want to copy them. I know that if I don't write new _____ down I'll never remember them.

Sam: Thanks. I'll give your book back to you tomorrow. If I don't see a word written down I can never _____ it either and I need to write it down myself to help my _____.

Jo: What about the phonemic chart? Did you find that useful?

Sam: Yes, although I found it really _____ to hear the difference in the sounds she made.

Jo: Yes, I'll need to practise them too. If we use the chart every lesson though I think it might help you to remember new words. If you can 'see' the _____ you need to make it might be _____.

Sam: Yeah, I think you're right. Maybe you should be my _____ !

- Jo** So what did you think of the class this morning?
- Sam** It was ok, but I don't think I learnt very much.
- Jo** Why not? I thought she was a good teacher.
- Sam** I don't know. Maybe she just talked too much. I got bored of listening to her.
- Jo** Yeah, but what she said was interesting. Especially when she explained the present perfect. It sounded so easy.
- Sam** I'm not interested in the present perfect! I need to learn more words. It doesn't really matter if my tenses aren't quite right as long as people understand me.
- Jo** She did give us *some* new words though.
- Sam** I know but she didn't write any of them on the board. She was too busy talking.
- Jo** I wrote them in my book if you want to copy them. I know that if I don't write new words down I'll never remember them.
- Sam** Thanks. I'll give your book back to you tomorrow. If I don't see a word written down I can never remember it either and I need to write it down myself to help my memory.
- Jo** What about the phonemic chart? Did you find that useful?
- Sam** Yes, although I found it really difficult to hear the difference in the sounds she made.
- Jo** Yes, I'll need to practise them too. If we use the chart every lesson though I think it might help you to remember new words. If you can 'see' the sound you need to make it might be easier.
- Sam** Yeah, I think you're right. Maybe you should be my teacher!
- Jo** Oh I don't think I could do that! In any case I prefer working on my own. I know she said we had to work in groups for the next lesson and prepare a presentation, but I learn much more when I can work on my own, at my own pace.
- Sam** I don't mind working with others. I really like working in a group. That way I can listen to what other people want to say.
- Jo** You mean *they* do the work for you!
- Sam** No! Well, ...maybe a little! You know how I like to sit, listen and draw in class!
- Jo** Maybe you should draw pictures of new words rather than drawing squares and circles all the time.
- Sam** That's a great idea! So will you be in my group for the next lesson?...