

CRAZY SENTENCES!

Players

groups of three players or more

Materials

one set of sentence cards per group; one or two blank sheets of A4 paper; a pen/pencil per person

Before starting

Photocopy and cut up along the dotted lines one set of sentence cards per group. Explain to the class that this activity is called *Crazy Sentences*, to give them an idea of what is to come.

How to play

- Place the cards in a pile, face down. One player picks up a card and reads out the first part of sentence, e.g. *"This must be a hoax!" said Victor, staring at the _____ with three _____.*
- At the top of their blank sheet of paper, each player in the group must write a word or phrase in secret to complete the blank in an interesting, original or amusing way, e.g. *"This must be a hoax!" said Victor, staring at the **chicken** with three **wings**.*
- After writing, players fold back the top part of their sheet of paper so that no one can see what they have written.
- Players then pass their sheets of paper to the left.
- The next part of the text is read out: ... *"No, it's completely real," asserted the man holding the _____.*
- Everyone writes something for this blank, e.g. *"No, it's completely real," asserted the man holding the **olympic torch**.* As before, everyone folds the paper and passes it to the left. There are three blanks per card, so students repeat the process three times for each card.
- When everyone has written something for blank number three, the sheets can be unfolded.

In turn, all players read out the resulting crazy sentences, using the card plus what is on their sheet of paper, and the group must decide which version is the funniest.

How to score

In this activity there is no scoring as such. However, it can be made competitive. At the end of the activity, the different groups can read out a sentence each, with the teacher (or the students themselves) awarding points to the funniest. There is clearly some subjectivity, so the teacher should use their best judgement when awarding points.

The teacher could award points for any of the following: *originality, imagination, humour, great vocabulary, effort, spelling, grammar.*

Versions of the game

Dictation: Players must write everything that is read out on the card and fill in the blanks. This is a bit slower but offers more writing practice.

Notes

This game revises a range of vocabulary and grammar from Students Book 9, Units 1–16.

Follow-up activity

If students have only filled in the blanks, they can look at their sheets, and try to remember the sentences in full, writing them down in their notebooks.

- "This must be a hoax!" said Victor, staring at the _____, with three _____.
- "No, it's completely real," asserted the man holding the _____.
- "If you don't believe me, go up to it and _____ it."

- Nina and Jon's once-in-a-lifetime holiday to _____
- was ruined by something that nobody could have anticipated: a fire inside the _____
- which destroyed all the _____ and was miraculously put out by _____.

- I will never let _____ come between us," shouted Amanda
- to the _____ she had always loved,
- and together they made long-terms plans to build a _____.

- In her time as a campaigner for the rights of _____,
- Catherine snuck into the _____ via the back door,
- which was supposedly guarded by several huge _____, but was in fact guarded by _____.

- Fran's addiction to _____ was getting out of hand, so
- she decided to tackle the problem by taking several _____.
- Totally cured, she celebrated by going to _____ and jumping on _____.

- Having declared the _____ inedible,
- Tina launched into a new cooking adventure. All she needed to find was a handful of _____,
- and half a dozen _____.

- Dressed in an eye-catching _____,
- Bobby spent a few weeks learning the ropes as a full-time _____,
- but soon found himself out of a job after he was unable to _____ for longer than 10 minutes.

- The size of the _____ raised plenty of eyebrows
- at the _____'s wedding,
- but in fact it was the father of the bride who hit the headlines, for _____ no fewer than six times.

- Needing to get back into shape, Aziz started _____,
- but only managed to burn a few calories. Frustrated, he went to _____ for advice,
- who told him, "What you need to do is _____" and a month later Aziz was fitter than ever.

- The imminent visit of _____ to the Royal Palace
- was put in danger by a vicious outbreak of _____
- which was rumoured to have been caused by _____.

- While Adam was in the middle of looking for his old _____,
- he had a flashback about the time he met _____,
- and suddenly he envisaged a future where everybody on Earth could _____.

- After being appointed as the president's personal _____,
- Thomas concocted a plan: to convince the president to _____.
- Providing there were no setbacks: this time next year, Thomas would be _____, while the president would be _____ every day.

- "Where would you rather be", Monica asked her brother: "on an unspoilt beach looking at _____
- or in an alleyway, surrounded by _____?"
- "Neither!" He answered. "I'd rather be at _____ house, playing _____."

- When nobody was able to fix the _____,
- Joanna took the initiative and grabbed her favourite _____,
- Feeling resourceful, the lady next to her, then picked up a _____ and in a matter of seconds it was mended.