

12 Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

Type of activity

whole class or group
information search

Function practised

talking about past experiences

Exponent

past and present perfect tenses (especially *Have you ever. . . ? When did you. . . ?*)

Lexical areas

life experiences

Problem vocabulary

made up your mind, polytechnic, take a year off, volunteer, evacuated, blitz, honeymoon, go in for, crazy, itchy feet, homesick, captured, cruise, bankrupt, free lance, documentary, assignment, liner, reunion

How to use the game

The game may be played with between 4 and 10 players.

If you have more than ten students in the class, divide your class into roughly evenly-sized groups. The larger the groups the better: for a class of, say, 15 people it would be better to have a group of 7 and a group of 8 rather than three groups of 5.

Copy one set of role cards for each group. If there are fewer than 10 students in the group(s), leave out some of the role cards (it doesn't matter which ones – though see the note below).

Give out one set of cards per group and then distribute the cards among the students in each group.

Give the students some time to read and absorb the information and to ask you questions. Tell them that the dates will be important in the next phase of the activity, so they may like to make a brief summary of the information on a piece of paper to help them in the next phase.

Now tell the students that they are at a party (a separate party for each group!) where every face looks familiar. In fact, they have met everyone at the party before at some time in their lives, though they cannot remember where or when.

The object of the game is for everyone to find out exactly where and when they met everyone else.

To do this, they should start up conversations with each member of the group in turn, as if at a party, beginning *Excuse me, but haven't I seen you somewhere before?* and then asking questions about each other's past lives until they find out where they saw each other.

Emphasise that they should find out when they met as well as where: it is not enough for two players to assume that because they have both been to the same primary school that that is where they met – one may have been there ten years before the other.

Note: Three of the role cards (Anne Howard, Pauline Edwards, Felicity Taylor) are female roles, three (James Holt, Tom White, George Parker) are male roles, the remainder have 'neutral' names and can be given to male or female students. These factors may affect teachers' choice in selection and distribution of role cards.

This game is longer than average and will take an hour or more.

ANNE HOWARD

You were born in 1963 and lived in Liverpool until you were 5. You went to Springfield Nursery School between the ages of 3 and 5.

When you were 5, your parents moved to Bristol and you went to Gateway Primary School there until you were 11. When you were 11, you went to the Manor Secondary School.

When you were 16, your parents moved again, this time to York, and you did your final exams at a college there.

After leaving school at the age of 18, you trained as a nurse in London at King's College Hospital. You lived in the nurses' home near the hospital. You finished your training when you were 21 and worked on at the hospital for a year after that.

Then you decided to volunteer to work in a hospital in Calcutta for a year.

You enjoyed it, but it was very hard work. A year was enough, and you came back to Britain in 1986 and got a job at Brighton Hospital.

LESLIE COOPER

You were born in 1950 and lived in Manchester until you were 18. You went to two schools there: Sunnyside Junior School (until you were 11) and Manchester Grammar School.

When you left school, you did a year's voluntary work – you were sent to work as a teacher in Mirapore, a small town near Calcutta.

On your return, you did a teacher-training course at Brighton Polytechnic. This took three years.

Your first job after you qualified was at Gateway Primary School in Bristol. You taught there from 1972–1978.

Your second job was in Liverpool: you were head of Newlands Primary School there.

But after five years there, you began to get itchy feet and decided you wanted to travel again. You decided to work in Australia for a while. You went out by ship, the *Canberra*, in August 1983 and started work in September of that year at Beacon Hill School, Sydney. You worked there for three years, but then got homesick.

You travelled home by plane in June 1986, stopping to spend some time with old friends in Calcutta, and to revisit the school where you had taught nearly 20 years ago.

You arrived back in England in July and have been with your parents in Manchester since then. You are presently unemployed, and are trying to find a new job.

ALEX LEWIS

You were born in Bristol in 1953 and lived there until you were 11. You went to Gateway Primary School there.

Then your family moved to York and you went to Warren Secondary School there.

You left school in 1971 and decided to be a librarian. You did a course in Library Studies at Brighton Polytechnic. The course lasted 2 years and you got your first job in Liverpool, where you worked at the main library for 10 years.

In early 1983 you moved to London and became chief librarian at the University Library.

You have worked there continuously ever since, apart from a break in 1984 after you had a bad car accident and spent nearly four months in King's College Hospital.

JO ALEXANDER

You were born in Bristol in 1962 and went to two schools there: Sunnybank Junior School (until 1973) and Manor Secondary School, where you stayed until you were 18. When you were 18, you did a course in economics at London University.

You finished your course in July 1983 and decided to travel for a bit until you had made up your mind what to do. You sailed to Australia on the *Canberra* in August of that year, and worked at various odd jobs in Sydney.

You left Australia at the end of 1984, and travelled home via Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and India, arriving home in mid-1985.

You decided to do a teachers' course, and were lucky to get on a course at Brighton Polytechnic, beginning in September. The course lasted a year, and since autumn 1986 you have been working at Warren Secondary School, York.

FELICITY TAYLOR

You were born in 1953 in Bristol and went to Gateway Primary School there.

In 1964 you moved to Liverpool, and went to Liverpool High School.

You left at the age of 18, having decided to become a doctor. You had a place to study medicine at King's College Hospital in London.

But first, you decided to have a year off, and see the world. You spent the year working as a volunteer teacher in a school in Mirapore, a small town near Calcutta. You returned to England, and took up your place at King's College Hospital in 1972. Your studies were completed in 1979, but you stayed on at the hospital as a junior doctor until 1982.

In 1982, you decided you needed a change. You wanted to travel again and see the world, so you got a job as a ship's doctor on the *Canberra*.

You married in 1985, a man you met on the *Canberra*.

You didn't like to be away from home so much, so you got a job at Manchester Hospital. You've been there since June 1985.

JAMES HOLT

You were born in 1935 and lived in London until you were 22, although you were evacuated to the countryside during the blitz. You spent the four years from 1941–1945 with a farmer and his wife in a little village called Ash, in Devon. The farm was called Home Farm. You remember it well, though you've never been back. You went to the little village primary school there – just 30 pupils and two teachers. When you were 18 you went to London University to study economics, and after that, you did a teaching course, also at London University.

Your first job was in Manchester, at Sunnyside Junior School. You taught there until 1960.

Then you got a new job at Gateway Primary School, Bristol. You were there for 5 years altogether, until 1965.

In 1965 you applied for and got a job in Sydney, Australia. You spent 5 years as headmaster of Beacon School, Sydney. In 1970 you got married to an English girl you met in Sydney. She didn't like Australia, and although you enjoyed the life out there, you agreed to come home. You spent your honeymoon on board ship – the *Canberra* – back to London. You returned to Bristol and got a job at the Manor Secondary School in Bristol.

You were there until 1976, when you suddenly decided to give up teaching and study medicine. A crazy idea at the age of 40, but your wife agreed to support you and you got a place at King's College Hospital. It's taken nearly 10 years, but you qualified last year, and are working there as a junior doctor.

TOM WHITE

You were born in 1924 and spent your early life in Devon, in the south-west of England, in a little village called Ash. Your father was a farmer; Home Farm was the name of the farm.

In 1942 you were 18 and volunteered to join the navy. You had many adventures, but were captured in 1943 and spent the rest of the war in a prisoner-of-war camp in Singapore. (You've recently been to a big reunion of POWs in London, where you met a lot of people who were in the camp at the same time as you.)

You remained in the navy after the war until 1948 when you took a teacher training course.

You taught in Bristol for 20 years, first at Gateway Primary School, then at Sunnybank Junior School.

In 1968, at the age of 44 you went to do voluntary work in Calcutta in India. You ran a school in a small town called Mirapore. You were quite happy there until 1985 when you became very ill and spent a long time in hospital in Calcutta. While in hospital, you realised that you wanted to return to England.

You returned to England in 1986. Both your parents became ill and died that year.

You took over the farm, and live there now.

PAULINE EDWARDS

You were born in 1939, and lived all your early life in Ash, a little village in Devon, in south-west England. You went to the village primary school – a little school with 30 pupils – and then to school in the nearest large town, Plymouth. You left school at 15 and trained as a cook. You took a 1-year course at Plymouth College and then worked at the Imperial Hotel, Plymouth.

You married at the age of 18. Your husband lived in Liverpool, so you followed him there and got a job as cook at a primary school in Liverpool – Newlands was the name. You divorced in 1982 and remarried in August 1983 – you had your honeymoon on board ship! (You went on a cruise on the *Canberra* to Australia.)

Your second husband was rich. You flew back from Australia, and came to live in Brighton, where your husband's company was. But in 1985 your husband's company went bankrupt and you lost all your money, so you went back to work as a cook in Brighton Hospital.

GEORGE PARKER

You were born in 1924 in Liverpool and went to Liverpool High School.

In 1942 you volunteered for the army and were sent to the Far East. You ended up in a prisoner-of-war camp in Singapore in 1944, and stayed there until the end of the war in 1945.

You returned to Britain and stayed in the army until 1951. Then you decided to get a degree.

You studied economics at London University from 1951–1954. Then you got a job at Brighton Polytechnic, teaching economics.

You married in 1956 and went down to the south-west of England for your honeymoon. You stayed at the Imperial Hotel in Plymouth.

In 1980 you got a new job, teaching economics at London University.

In 1981 you were very ill and spent six weeks in King's College Hospital – but you're quite well again now.

JERRY SAMUELS

You were born in York in 1955 and went to Foxhole Primary School there. When you were 11 you transferred to Warren Secondary School.

You left school in 1973 and did a lot of travelling: Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, China, India.

You did some work as a free-lance journalist while you were travelling, and on your return you got a job as a trainee TV reporter, doing research for a documentary programme. Your first assignment, in 1981, was a report on how a large London hospital is run. You interviewed doctors, nurses and other staff and patients at King's College Hospital.

The assignment you've most enjoyed was a documentary on a cruise. You did a report on the passengers and crew of the liner *Canberra* on her voyage to Australia in August 1983. Your most recent assignment was on people who had been prisoners of war in the Far East during the Second World War. You attended a reunion for former prisoners from a Singapore camp in London, and interviewed most of the people who attended.