

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.

