

Yes, I have... but is it true?

A2-B1 | Adults and teens | Experiences and curious follow-up questions

The challenge: Tell a short true or invented experience. Listen for details, ask questions and decide which it is. You may change a question, invent every detail or pass.

1. Two questions, two jobs

A: Have you ever been to the wrong cafe?

B: Yes, I have. Last month I went to the wrong cafe.

A: Who did you meet there?

B: I met a neighbour. We bought a cake while we waited.

a. Which question asks about an experience at any time before now?

b. Which words place the story in a finished time?

c. Complete: Have you ever + past _____. Who did you + _____ verb?

2. Choose the next useful question

Your partner says: I missed a train last Saturday.

Choose two useful questions and explain what you want to find out.

Where did you go? / Where did you went? / What happened next?

Now ask one different question of your own.

3. Try a short round

Choose one question from page 2. Plan with keywords for one minute. Tell a short story.

Your listener asks two questions about details you have not explained. Then change roles.

A small language bank

Have you ever missed / tried / made / met / lost / won ...?

Yes, I have. It happened last ... / when I was ...

When did it happen? Where were you? Who were you with?

What happened next? How did you feel? Why ...?

Show interest: Really? / Tell me more. / What do you mean?

For experiences before now, use have + past participle. For details of a finished event, use the past simple. After did, use the base verb. Questions with was/were do not need did.

Let us hear your story

Print one page per group, or choose a numbered question on screen.

1 Have you ever cooked a meal for several people?	2 Have you ever missed a bus or train?
3 Have you ever tried a food you did not expect to like?	4 Have you ever got lost in a new place?
5 Have you ever learned a skill from a video?	6 Have you ever met someone famous?
7 Have you ever won a small prize?	8 Have you ever sent a message to the wrong person?
9 Have you ever made something by hand?	10 Have you ever forgotten something important on a trip?
11 Have you ever helped a stranger?	12 Have you ever seen an unusual animal?

Play in threes: one storyteller, two curious listeners

1. Choose a card. Secretly choose TRUE or INVENTED. Plan a few keywords.
2. Begin Yes, I have and tell a short story. This is a game rule.
3. Listeners ask at least three follow-up questions between them. Both ask a question. Listen to the answers and follow an interesting detail.
4. Each listener writes a private guess. Reveal guesses together, then hear the truth.
5. Change storyteller. Everyone tells one story.

After each story: say which detail influenced your guess. A detailed story can still be invented. Optional: one point for a correct guess; no points are needed for a good conversation.

Keep your plan private: TRUE / INVENTED Card: ____
 When / where: _____ People: _____
 What happened / ending: _____

Now make it a real exchange

Put the question bank away for the first attempt. You may ask for help.

1. A new partner, a new experience

You are meeting someone at a community event. Find one interesting experience to tell another person about. This time answer honestly, or choose a fictional character and say so before you start.

A: Ask about learning something outside school.

B: Ask about visiting somewhere new.

Create your own experience question. Listen, then ask two relevant questions about the finished event. Swap roles.

If the answer is No, I haven't: accept it. Ask a different experience question or invite a different story: What is something new you have tried?

Listener: retell one detail and check it: So you learned to cook with your cousin. Is that right?

Notice, improve, repeat: tell your partner one thing that was clear. Your teacher helps you repair one useful question or answer. Try a new exchange with a different example and less help.

2. Optional homework: questions that fit

Complete the exchanges. Use the words in brackets.

1. _____ you ever _____ something by hand? (make)
2. Yes. I _____ a small table last year. (make)
3. Who _____ you? My brother did. (help)
4. Where _____ you _____ the wood? (buy)
5. _____ it difficult? A little, at first. (be)
6. No, I _____, but I would like to try. (have)

3. Tell it again, with a listener in mind

Write 50-70 words, or prepare a one-minute retelling of a true or invented experience. Include when, where, what happened and an ending. Label it true or invented. Add two questions your listener might ask. No recording is required.
