

The missing mascot

PLAY2 · A2-B1 · Adults and teens · Shared case page

1. Freddie is missing. Where should we look?



Freddie is the fair's toy fox mascot. Earlier, he was on the welcome desk.

It is now **12:35**. The group photo is at **12:40**. Four helpers moved things this morning.

Ask questions to find the best place to look.



Blue circle sticker



Gold star sticker

Places: welcome desk · sewing table · stage · outside · photo booth

Ask about the past

Where did you put the box? / Did you open it?

No, I didn't open it. Use the base verb after **did** and **didn't**.

Who repaired the scarf? Rae repaired it. Do not use did in this question.

Useful forms: **take → took · see → saw · put → put · carry → carried**

2. Ask your partner. Complete the timeline together.

A uses Witness File A; B uses Witness File B. Keep your files private.

Time	Who? What did they do? Where?
12:10	
12:15	
12:18	
12:22	
12:25	
12:28	
12:32	

3. Agree where to look. Explain three connected facts.

We think Freddie is... First,... Then,... Finally,... We should look... because...

One partner reports; the other checks the facts. Then swap.

Use only the facts in the files. A guess without evidence does not finish the task.

Witness file A

PLAY2 · Keep this page private - your partner has different facts

Read what your two helpers say. Answer your partner's questions.

Answer as the helper: "I carried..." Or use a name: "Lin carried..." Do not invent facts.

LIN | Stage helper

At **12:25** I carried a green cardboard box with a **gold star sticker** from beside the sewing table to the stage. I put it behind the red curtain. I thought it held decorations, but **I did not open it**. At 12:35 it was still there, closed. I did not move any other green box.

RAE | Repair helper

At **12:18** I took Freddie from the welcome desk to the sewing table and repaired his scarf. At **12:22** I put him inside a green cardboard box with a **blue circle sticker**, under my table. A second green box, with a gold star sticker, stood beside it. I went to get some water. I did not see who moved either box.

Complete these questions. Then ask your partner and listen.

1. What _____ Sam's bag _____? (contain)
2. Where _____ Sam _____ the blue-circle box? (put)

Ask one more question

Which sticker was on the box? / What time did that happen?

Did you see it, or did you think it?

Answer the question your partner asks. Do not read out the whole file.

Match the times, places and stickers. Two green boxes are not always the same box.



Witness file B

PLAY2 · Keep this page private - your partner has different facts

Read what your two helpers say. Answer your partner's questions.

Answer as the helper: "I carried..." Or use a name: "Lin carried..." Do not invent facts.

SAM | Sports helper

At **12:15** I carried a blue sports bag outside. It contained two footballs and some red cones, **no toy fox**. At **12:28** I carried a green cardboard box with a **blue circle sticker** from under the sewing table to the photo booth. I left it under the table by the camera. I thought it held spare ribbons, but **I did not open it**.

JO | Photographer

At **12:10** I took a photo of Freddie on the welcome desk. His scarf looked loose. At **12:15** I saw Sam carry a blue sports bag towards the door. I did not see its contents. At **12:32** I saw a closed green box with a **blue circle sticker** under the photo-booth table. I did not see Freddie again.

Complete these questions. Then ask your partner and listen.

1. _____ Lin _____ the box? (open)
2. Who _____ Freddie's scarf? (repair)

Ask one more question

Which sticker was on the box? / What time did that happen?

Did you see it, or did you think it?

Answer the question your partner asks. Do not read out the whole file.

Match the times, places and stickers. Two green boxes are not always the same box.

Teacher notes & solution

PLAY2 · Past questions and negatives · A cooperative lost-property mystery

Set up a question-led investigation

Share the case page with everyone. Establish that mascot means the fair's toy fox. The photo is an earlier picture of Freddie, not evidence of his current location. Show the two box stickers and check the place names. Give File A only to A and File B only to B. Keep the answer separate. Each partner must ask questions; do not let them simply exchange files. The story times establish order; no exercise timing is required.

The best place to look, with the evidence

Inside the green box with the blue circle sticker, under the photo-booth table.

12:18: Rae took Freddie to the sewing table to repair his scarf.

12:22: Rae put him in the blue-circle box under that table.

12:28: Sam moved that box to the photo booth and left it under the table.

12:32: Jo saw the closed blue-circle box there.

This is the strongest place to check from the supplied events. The helpers did not report opening it at the photo booth, so distinguish a justified recommendation from certainty about unseen contents.

Timeline and misleading details

12:10 Jo photographed Freddie at the welcome desk. 12:15 Sam carried the sports bag outside; Jo saw him. The bag contained footballs and cones, no fox. 12:25 Lin carried the different gold-star box to the stage. Colour alone does not connect the boxes. Sam's ribbons and Lin's decorations are beliefs about unopened boxes, not observed contents. Rae establishes which box held Freddie. Do not frame the helpers as criminals; no theft is established.

Private-file grammar answers

File A: 1 did / contain - two footballs and some red cones; 2 did / put - under the table at the photo booth.

File B: 1 Did / open - no, Lin did not open the box; 2 repaired - Rae.

Object questions use did + base verb. The neutral subject question Who repaired the scarf? does not need did. Accept natural alternatives such as What was in the bag? Model took, saw, put and carried as needed. The timeline supports past simple without requiring past perfect.

Support, group sizes and feedback

One-to-one: teacher takes one file. Groups of four: allocate one helper's account to each learner without displaying the other account from their file. With three learners, use a pair and a questioner, then rotate roles. Online: send the case page to everyone and private files individually. Support: leave the question models visible and rehearse an exchange. Stretch: ask what a fact proves and what remains unknown. Listen for a clear question, an accurate answer and a connected explanation. Repair one recurring form and ask learners to use it immediately.

Finish with speaking and optional homework

Use the final question bank on teacher page 2, following a few stories fully. Exit clue: "Dana took a coat to reception at two." Ask a past question and report the answer. The separate homework/key supplies a fresh, self-contained lost-object puzzle and language practice. No recording is required.

Keep asking. Keep the story going.

PLAY2 · Final speaking · Choose a few questions and explore the answers

Take turns. Ask a follow-up: Why? What happened next? What about you?

Learners can use real or invented examples, or pass on a personal question.

- 1 When did you last lose something small? Where did you look first?
- 2 Have you ever found something in a strange place? What happened?
- 3 What did you take on your last day out? Did you forget anything?
- 4 Who helped you with a problem recently? What did they do?
- 5 Tell me about a time a plan went wrong. What happened first, and what happened next?
- 6 What was your favourite toy or object as a child? Where did you keep it?
- 7 Have you ever misunderstood a message? What did you think it meant?
- 8 Which details helped solve today's mystery? Which details were not useful?
- 9 Freddie disappears again after the photo. Where did someone take him? Give three clues.
- 10 Invent an excuse for arriving at a party with an empty cake box. Let your partner ask questions.
- 11 Imagine yesterday had a secret extra hour. Where did you go? Who did you meet? What did you do?
- 12 Tell a short true or invented mishap. Your partner asks questions, then guesses which it is. Why?

Finish with one clear question

Each learner asks one past question they can now use confidently.
Their partner answers, then asks a follow-up.
Example: Where did you leave it? / Who found it?