A Relatively Easy Quiz: An activity for relative adverbs

Instructions for the teacher:

This is a game that requires students to identify a place, time, reason, or manner based on prompts with relative adverbs (where, when, why, and how). Initially, the teacher gives the prompts. Once students learn the patterns used, they can give prompts to one another.

Step 1 – Write four categories on the board. My suggestions: places in the U.S., ceremonies, nature, and medical problems. Tell students to get in small groups. (If possible, have them sit in four groups.) In turn, ask each group to choose a category. When they do, supply a prompt. The prompt must include a relative adverb. Examples:

- Places in the U.S: This is where the Statue of Liberty is. > New York City
- Places in the U.S.: This is where the faces of four presidents are carved into a mountain. > Mount Rushmore (South Dakota)
- Ceremonies: This is when three athletes win a gold, silver, and bronze medal. > The Olympic Medal (Award) Ceremony
- Ceremonies: This is when a new president takes an oath of office. > Inauguration
- Nature: This is how skunks protect themselves. > They can have a strong odor.
- Nature: This is why days are shorter in one half of the year and longer in the other half. > The Earth is tilted/ is on an axis. It points away from the sun for half a year and then points toward it for the other half.
- Medical problems: This is why we wash our hands so often. > To avoid germs.
- Medical problems: This is how you should lift a heavy object to avoid back pain. > Bend your knees and lift with your legs.

A group must listen to the prompt and then identify the subject being described. If a group is unable to identify the subject within 10 seconds, the next group may answer.

Step 2 – Share the prompts with the students on the board. Have them identify the relative adverbs used. Example: (Places in the U.S) This is where the Statue of Liberty is. Explain how the adverbs correspond to place, time, reason, or manner.

Step 3 – Have students help you create new categories (historical events, places around town, tourist spots, holidays, science, dangers, sports, cooking, etc.) List the names of categories on the board and be sure that the number of categories matches the number of small groups playing the game. Assign a category to each group. Groups will write 3-4 prompts for their category. Each member needs to write the prompts down.

Step 4 – Have new groups form so that each new group has completely new members. The idea is that each member should have an original set of prompts to share. The members will take turns reading out prompts for the others to respond to.