



# Number tic tac toe

## CONVERSATION TASK

**Topic:** Numbers

**Grammar:** Formation of simple questions and question words

Present simple tense

**Lexis:** Question words

**Aims:** To give students personalised practise in using numbers.

**Objectives:** To practise asking and answering questions using the present simple.

**Language functions:** Stating simple facts; giving personal information about present circumstances; asking questions, eg How are you? Do you live here?

**Materials needed:** Tic tac toe grid, see example and blank grid provided.

In the speaking exam, the examiner will ask the candidate questions to elicit numbers or personal information which may include numbers. They may also use an image with numbers to elicit a range of numbers from the candidate. This simple activity gives candidates lots of personalised practice with using numbers and practice in asking simple questions.

## Procedure

### Preparation

1. Prepare a 3x3 tic tac toe grid. In each square add a number or time. The numbers are answers to questions about your daily life. See example and blank grid provided.

### Answers

**What is your favourite number?** My favourite number is 8.

**How old is your mother?** My mother is 67.

**How old is your brother?** My brother is 35.

**What time do you wake up?** I wake up at 06.00.

**What time do you eat dinner?** I eat dinner at 7.30.

**Do you have any brothers or sisters?** Yes I have 2 brothers.

**Do you have any pets?** Yes I have one dog.

**What number is your house?** My house is number 20.

**What time do you go to sleep?** I go to sleep at 11.00.

## In class

1. On the board, draw the 3x3 grid you prepared before class.
2. Divide the class into two teams. Explain that they will play a game of tic tac toe – they need to get three squares in a row. All of the numbers are answers to a question about you. To win a square, the team gives you the correct question to the number in the grid. If necessary, model an example for the class. Write your age and ask the candidates to guess the question '**How old are you?**' If they struggle to form the question, give them the first word.
3. Play the game with teams taking turns to guess the question. If they give the correct question but there is a mistake with grammar or word order, write the question on the board and ask the team to correct it. If they are unable to give the correct question, then the other team can guess.
4. If the class are struggling to form questions, you can write the bold question stems from the example on the board to help them.
5. After one team has won, ask the class to design their own grid with numbers about them. They can use the example questions or think of their own.
6. Put the class into groups of three. They continue to play the game in threes with two students guessing the answer to the third student's numbers.

## Variation

You can also include days of the week and months of the year.

## Writing extension

Students write six sentences using the numbers in their grid.

8

67

35

06.00

2

11.00

7.30

1

20

