



## **Diana Funtana's ESL Grammar Game : Truth or Lies**

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## Introduction

**Object of game:** to use the present perfect for life experiences

**Level:** Intermediate to advanced

**Grammar point:** Present perfect with “Have you ever ...?”

**Duration:** approx. 30 minutes

**Materials:** question strips and a container (cookie box)

“Truth and Lies” is a fun game that can be played with various grammar points, and for different levels. In this version students use the present perfect with *ever, never, before*. This game is a good introduction or follow-up to Diana Funtana ESL Productions' video, *Life Experiences* at: <http://dianafuntanaesl.com/act-i-beginner-grammar/>

The questions included are suggestions, so feel free to pick and choose the ones you find more appropriate to your class and culture, and to add your own. With more advanced and imaginative students, I suggest handing out empty strips of paper and having them write their own questions. In my experience students can come up with some pretty funny ones. If students make their own questions, you should remind them to stick to the realm of the possible to avoid any obvious lies or embarrassment. Questions that do not qualify would be: *Have you ever landed on the moon* or *Have you ever had a baby?*

Before the class plays the game, the teacher should coach them on how to tell a lie in a convincing manner (keep a straight face and avoid laughing or giggling) and how to tell a truth as if it were a lie (hesitate or giggle or make a face). You will soon discover the best actors in the class if you don't already know.

## Directions and rules

1. Divide the class into two teams and have them line up on opposite sides of the classroom, facing each other. In the case of uneven numbers one student can act as leader/moderator.
2. Fold the questions strips so that they cannot be read and put them in a cookie tin or hat.
3. The first student on Team A pulls a question out of the container and reads

it to the first student on Team B, who answers the question with “Yes” or “No” and a complete sentence.

Example:

Team A: Have you ever found money on the street?

Team B: No, I've never found money on the street,

OR Yes, I have. Last week I found a \$20 bill at the bus stop and I picked it up and put it in my pocket.

OR Yes, I have found money two or three times. Once I found money outside the school.

When the student answers “Yes”, she must give specific details in the simple past, such as when or where she did something, or say in the present perfect how many times she has done something.

If the student doesn't understand the question, the teacher can explain it, preferably in English.

4. The teacher collects the question and asks Team A if Team B's answer was the truth or a lie. Team A decides collectively and the teacher asks the student from Team B if he/she is lying or telling the truth. If Team A guesses correctly, they get a point. If not, Team B gets a point.
5. The student from Team A moves to the back of the line and the student from Team B, who has just answered, pulls a new question and asks the next student from Team A. And so the game continues with teams alternately asking questions and each student moving to the back of the line after completing his/her turn.
6. The teacher keeps score, and at the end of the game the team with the most points wins.

**Have you ever stolen candy from a store?**

**Have you ever cheated on your girl/boyfriend?**

**Have you ever seen a ghost?**

**Have you ever been drunk?**

**Have you ever stuck a bean in your ear?**

**Have you ever eaten caviar?**

**Have you ever lied to your mother?**

**Have you ever broken something in a store?**

**Have you ever swallowed a coin?**

**Have you ever knocked on a stranger's door and run away?**

**Have you ever played with matches and started a fire?**

**Have you ever thrown a rock through a window?**

**Have you ever fallen asleep in church?**

**Have you ever cried in a movie?**

**Have you ever dressed up like a clown?**

**Have you ever dyed your hair an unusual color?**

**Have you ever been lost in a department store?**

**Have you ever slept on the subway?**

**Have you ever worn bright red lipstick?**

**Have you ever kissed an animal?**

**Have you ever changed a baby's diapers?**

**Have you ever written a love letter?**

**Have you ever posted a video on You Tube?**

**Have you ever asked a famous person for an autograph?**

**Have you ever run away from a policeman?**

**Have you ever danced on a table?**

**Have you ever fallen in love with your teacher?**

**Have you ever broken something expensive?**

**Have you ever smoked a cigar?**

**Have you ever broken your arm or leg?**

**Have you ever climbed a mountain?**