

Task Name: Sharing Past Experiences in New York

Required Materials: Genki textbook Chapters 1-4, notebook and pen (or digital device for recording)

Language Skills Practiced: Speaking, listening, writing (using past tense でした)

Time Required: 30 minutes

Background: You are a student in New York, often discussing past experiences with friends. This task helps you practice the past tense of です (でした) to describe events from last weekend or recent activities, using real-life situations relevant to New York.

Problem to Solve: You need to interact with classmates to learn about their past weekend activities and share your own, fostering connections while reinforcing Japanese grammar and vocabulary from Genki Ch.1-4.

Vocabulary from Genki Ch.1-4:

- ニューヨーク (New York)
- 大学 (university)
- 学生 (student)
- 先生 (teacher)
- 友達 (friend)
- 日本人 (Japanese person)
- 名前 (name)
- 国 (country)
- 町 (town/city)
- 公園 (park)
- 映画 (movie)
- レストラン (restaurant)
- 昨日 (yesterday)
- 先週 (last week)
- 時間 (time)
- です (is/am/are)
- でした (was/were)
- 楽しかったです (it was fun)
- 忙しかったです (I was busy)
- よかったです (it was good)
- Example sentences: 先生は大学生でした。(The teacher was a college student.) 週末は楽しかったです。(The weekend was fun.)

Instructional Steps:

1. **Preparation (5 minutes):** Review vocabulary and grammar from Genki Ch.1-4, focusing on past tense examples. Practice forming sentences with でした, such as describing past identities or events (e.g., わたしは学生でした。 – I was a student.).
2. **Pair Work (10 minutes):** In pairs, take turns asking and answering questions about last weekend's activities using past tense. Use questions like 週末は何をしましたか。(What did you do last weekend?) and respond with full sentences, e.g., ニューヨークの公園に行きました。楽しかったです。(I went to a park in New York. It was fun.).
3. **Group Sharing (5 minutes):** Form small groups of 3-4 students. Each student shares one inter-

esting past experience from the pair work, using sentences like 友達は映画を見ました。忙しかったです。(My friend watched a movie. It was busy.).

4. **Writing Task (5 minutes):** Individually, write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about your own past experience in New York, incorporating at least three past tense sentences. For example: 昨日、ニューヨークの大学の友達とレストランに行きました。食事は良かったです。先週は忙しかったです。(Yesterday, I went to a restaurant with a friend from New York University. The meal was good. Last week was busy.).

5. **Feedback and Reflection (5 minutes):** Exchange paragraphs with a partner and check for correct use of past tense and vocabulary. Briefly discuss any challenges or new words encountered.