

Lead-in

- 1 Are you good at telling funny stories? What makes a good story?
- 2 Your teacher will give you some cards with advice for telling a funny story. Which ones do you think are good advice? Why? Why not?
- 3 Make a note of the good advice below.

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Input

- 1 Look at these idiomatic expressions related to feelings. Match each one with its meaning below:

be as pleased as Punch be out of (your) depth be a pain in the neck
be down in the dumps get mixed up be taken by surprise (my) heart sank
hit the roof have a screw loose laugh your head off

- 1 be crazy, mad
 - 2 be furious, really angry
 - 3 become confused
 - 4 be really happy, proud
 - 5 laugh a lot
 - 6 became discouraged, worried
 - 7 be unable to deal with a situation
 - 8 feel miserable, bored
 - 9 be difficult or irritating
 - 10 be startled by something unexpected
- 2  Listen to a funny story and answer the questions below:
 - 1 What is the background to the story? When did it happen? Where did it happen?
 - 2 Why did the speaker drive a different car every day?
 - 3 Why did she decide to go to the shops?
 - 4 Why did she try to open a stranger's car?
 - 5 How did the stranger react?
 - 6 What did the speaker's colleagues think of the story?
 - 3 Listen to the funny story again. Tick the idiomatic expressions in 1 that you hear. What do they add to the story?

Language Focus

- 1 When you are telling a story, it is important to put events in order and explain why things happened. Your teacher will give you a copy of the text. Find expressions to put in the table below.

Starting the story/background information

Sequencing the story

Adding an exciting or funny climax

Linking events

Concluding the story

- 2 Look at the expressions below. Can you add them to the table?

All of a sudden ...

At long last ...

Out of nowhere ...

It was raining heavily ...

The next day ...

Because of that ...

As a result ...

Meanwhile ...

Before long ...

The story began when ...

A few moments later ...

To my horror ...

3 Use the expressions from your table to complete the following story:

.....¹ I moved to Birmingham, England.² for about a month when I decided to try out a new café. I got myself a coffee and some cake and sat down to read my newspaper.³ I noticed an old man at the table next to me, with a large dog sitting at his feet. He looked a bit lonely so⁴ I decided to start up a conversation.

“Does your dog like cake?” I asked.

“Oh yes, he loves cake!” replied the old man with a smile.

“And is he friendly?” I asked,⁵ I was a bit afraid of dogs.

“No. He wouldn’t hurt a fly,” smiled the old man.

I bent down to give the dog some cake, when⁶ the dog jumped up and bit me!

“Your dog just bit me!” I screamed.

The old man looked at me and said calmly, “He’s not my dog”.

At the time, I was furious, but⁷ I saw the funny side of the story.

Task**1 You are going to tell a funny story about something that happened to you or someone you know.**

Here are some possible situations:

- A misunderstanding
- A difficult journey
- A special event such as a birthday
- An embarrassing situation
- When someone got angry
- An incident on holiday
- A time you lost something important
- A surprise

Plan your story and make notes. Remember to sequence the events in the story and talk about people’s emotions to make it more interesting.

2 Tell your funny story to your group.**3 Tell the class who had the funniest stories and give a brief summary of the story to the class.****Review**
