

### **Lesson description**

The topic of this lesson is misunderstandings. You will:

- tell a story about a misunderstanding you have experienced
- focus on phrases to help organise a story
- look at different verb forms used in stories
- practise natural sentence stress when telling stories.

### **Aim**

Telling an anecdote

### **Pronunciation**

- contractions in past perfect sentences

### **Language**

- useful expressions for telling an anecdote
- past perfect tense for spoken narratives
- common discourse markers in spoken anecdotes

### **Main task**

The task for this lesson is for learners to tell an anecdote about a misunderstanding.

### **Materials**

Handout

IWB

Audio U092CEA-1.mp3, U092CEA-2.mp3

Tapescript

Optional video of a misunderstanding -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEJ6HBHjt1g> - t=16

### **Self-study activities**

(available on platform)

Listening

Vocabulary

Grammar

Handout activity number:

Listening, 2

Language, 3

Language, 4

### **Suggested running order**

- |   |  |                        |
|---|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Lead in – speaking/optional video        | Handout/optional video |
| 2 | Listening – 2 anecdotes                  | Handout/U092CEA-1.mp3  |
| 3 | Language – stages/phrases for staging    | Handout                |
| 4 | Language – discourse analysis (optional) | Notes                  |
| 5 | Language – past perfect                  | Handout/U092CEA-2.mp3  |
| 6 | Pronunciation – past perfect             | Handout                |
| 7 | Main task – anecdotes                    | Handout                |
| 8 | Feedback                                 | IWB                    |

### Lead in

Use the optional link or a similar one of your choice to help set the context.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEJ6HBHjt1g - t=16>

### Listening

#### Anecdote 1

- Because she was picking up all kinds of words at the time.
- Because they thought her mistake was very funny.

#### Anecdote 2

- Because she couldn't keep saying sorry and the woman thought she didn't speak English because she hadn't understood her.
- She got confused by the other person's accent and thought she was saying something different.

### Language

Setting the scene and introducing the characters	Telling the story
3. I was on a bus in London one day, sitting at the back ... 7. When I started learning Portuguese first many years ago ...	2. When people would sneeze, I used to say 'sanita'. 6. So I said 'Sorry what do you mean?' And she said it again!
Explaining the misunderstanding	Thinking about it afterwards
8. Anyway, turned out ... 5. ... and then suddenly it dawned on me!	1. I had to laugh to myself, though it really wasn't funny at the time. 4. You know 'cos sometimes they enjoy your mistakes so much they don't correct you.

### Discourse extension (optional)

Look through the tapescript and underline examples of 'You know?', 'So' and 'Anyway' in the anecdotes. Discuss the questions below with a partner.

- How and why are each of these used?
- Do you have equivalents in your language?

### Answers

*You know* = abbreviated question, example of situated elipsis (full form is *Do You know?* or *Do You know what I mean?*) used to involve the listener and/or check that he/she has understood.

e.g. sitting at the back where, *you know*, you face the people on the other side.

The use of *so* is complex but the first use as an interjection is probably the most common use in an anecdote.

*So* as an interjection, often used after pausing for thought to introduce a new topic.

- e.g. *So* when I started learning Portuguese first many years ago ...  
*So Anyway*, *so* I think after I discovered what a mistake I'd been making ...  
*So* I think I'd been going around saying 'toilet bowl' for a number of years ...  
*So* she sat down opposite me with these bags around her ...

*So* as a conjunction meaning 'for that reason' or 'as a result'.

- e.g. *So* when people would sneeze, I used to say 'sanita'  
*So* I said 'Sorry, what do you mean?'  
Well, you can't keep saying sorry *so* I just kind of smiled vaguely at her ...

N.B. The difference between the use of 'so' as a conjunction or as an interjection is not always clear cut.

*So* as an adverb meaning to such a great extent.

- e.g. 'cos sometimes they enjoy your mistakes *so* much they don't correct you.'

*So* in the fixed phrase:

- e.g. I don't think *so*.

*Anyway*: adverb used to continue or resume the thread of a story or account.

- e.g. *Anyway*, turned out I'd got my syllables mixed up.  
*Anyway*, this woman got on the bus

The last examples show that *so* and *Anyway* can be used together in spoken English and that an erm can also be thrown in for good measure.

## Answers

- Anyway*, turned out **I'd got** my syllables mixed up and I wasn't saying 'Bless you'...
- I think I'd **been going around** saying 'toilet bowl' for a number of years before somebody ... managed to correct me.
- After I discovered what a mistake I'd **been making**, it registered ...
- I'd **realised** from her accent she was Scottish but it was only then I realised what she'd been saying was 'Is that in your way?'
- Seems obvious now, but I just **hadn't heard** that.

- Which sentences are used to show that something happened before to another event? **1, 4, 5**
- Which sentences are used to show that an activity was repeated or went on for some time?  
**2, 3**

**Audio script****Audio 1**

Angela So when I started learning Portuguese first many years ago ... sometimes I had a block on certain words and in Portuguese erm when somebody sneezes you say 'Bless you!', you say 'santinho' but I had this block because I was picking up all kinds of words at the time so when people would sneeze, I used to say 'sanita' and everybody would burst out laughing and I thought 'Why are they laughing?' Anyway, turned out I'd got my syllables mixed up and I wasn't saying 'Bless you', I was actually saying 'toilet bowl' to everybody so I think I'd been going around saying 'toilet bowl' for a number of years before somebody... managed to correct me and you know 'cos sometimes they enjoy your mistakes so much they don't correct you. They let you go on making a fool of yourself until you cop on one day, so I think after I discovered what a mistake I'd been making, it registered eventually which way the syllables go.

Mary I was on a bus in London one day, sitting at the back where, you know, you face the people on the other side. Anyway, this woman got on and she was carrying several of those garment bags, you know dresses or something inside big covers. So she sat down opposite me with these bags around her and looked at me and then said 'Is that a new way?' And I thought 'What does she mean? Is what a new way?' So I said 'Sorry?' And she said it again 'Is that a new way?' I was beginning to feel a bit flustered, I couldn't think what she meant – was she referring to something I was wearing – a new way of wearing something? Or what? So I said 'Sorry, what do you mean?' And she said it again! Well, you can't keep saying sorry so I just kind of smiled vaguely at her. And then she said 'Do you speak English?' And I said 'Yes, I am English.' And she said 'I don't think so.' By this point I was quite embarrassed. Fortunately she got off the bus after a couple of stops. I was still madly trying to think what she was talking about and then suddenly it dawned on me. I'd realised from her accent she was Scottish but it was only then I realised what she'd been saying was 'Is that in your way?' – talking about her bags! But her accent made it sound to me like 'Is that a new way?' Oops! Seems obvious now but I just hadn't heard that. I had to laugh to myself though it really wasn't funny at the time.

**Audio 2**

- Anyway, turned out **I'd got** my syllables mixed up and I wasn't saying 'Bless you'...
- I think **I'd been going around** saying 'toilet bowl' for a number of years before somebody ... managed to correct me.
- After I discovered what a mistake **I'd been making**, it registered ...
- I'd realised** from her accent she was Scottish but it was only then I realised what she'd been saying was 'Is that in your way?'
- Seems obvious now, but I just **hadn't heard** that.