

TELLING A STORY

- 1 Read Amy's story about what happened to her. Has anything like this ever happened to you?



Two years ago, I was in France, on holiday. It was a hot day and I decided to go swimming in the sea. First, I walked to the beach and changed into my swimming costume. Then, I left my towel and clothes on the beach, and ran into the sea. Well, the water was lovely! I swam for about an hour, then I walked back up the beach. Guess what? My clothes and towel weren't there! I was really angry! Luckily, I found my towel in the end, so I put it round me and went back to my hotel. But I never found my clothes! It was really annoying!

- 2 Read Amy's story again and decide if the sentences are true or false.

- 1 The weather was good.
- 2 Amy put on her swimming costume, then walked to the beach.
- 3 Amy only stayed in the sea for a few minutes.
- 4 Amy found her towel and clothes in the end.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR TELLING A STORY

Saying when things happened:

A few days / weeks ago ...

Last Monday / Saturday, ...

Using was and were to give background information:

*The weather **was** really hot.*

*We **were** on the train.*

*I **was** with some friends.*

Using the past simple to say what happened:

I went ... / I saw ... / I didn't know ...

Describing the events in order:

First, ...

Then, ...

Finally / In the end, ...

Using fillers to focus on important parts:

Anyway, ...

Well, ...

Asking questions to make your story interesting:

Can you believe it?

Guess what?

Adding personal comments:

Luckily, ...

I was really surprised / happy

It was amazing!

It was really annoying!

- 3 Read the *Key Language* box. Then read Amy's story again. Find:

- 1 A phrase saying when the story happened.
- 2 Two sentences using *was* or *were*, to give background information.
- 3 Three verbs in the past simple, saying what happened.
- 4 Three words or expressions giving the order of the events.
- 5 One filler.
- 6 One question to make the story interesting.
- 7 Two personal comments.

- 4 Complete the story with the correct words and phrases. There is one word or phrase that you don't need.

can you believe it first I was really happy
last Saturday luckily then well



- 1 _____, I was in London with my family. It was a wet day, so we decided to go to the Science Museum.
2 _____, my brother looked online to find the bus to the museum. He told us it was the number 77.
3 _____, we got on the bus and bought our tickets. We were very excited. 4 _____, we were on the bus for about half an hour, but we didn't see the Science Museum. Finally, we asked the bus driver to help us. We were on the wrong bus. 5 _____?
6 _____, we were near the British Museum, so we went there. It was great!

5 Put these events in order to make a story.



- A** We bought lots of food and drinks.
- B** It started to rain.
- C** We carried everything to the beach.
- D** We put everything back into our bags and went home.
- E** We decided to go to the beach and have a picnic.
- F** We watched a film together and had our picnic inside.

6 Choose the two best sentences to give background information for the story in Exercise 5.

- A** A few months ago, I was on holiday with my family.
- B** Last winter, I was in Paris on a school trip.
- C** The weather was really bad.
- D** It was a lovely hot day and we were near the sea.
- E** There was no one on the beach.

7 Tell the story in Exercise 5. Start with the background information in Exercise 6, then use words and phrases to describe the events in order. Add a filler, a question to make the story interesting, or a personal comment.

8 Plan to tell the class a story about something that happened to you. Use the table below to help you.

When it happened	
Background information	
The events in order	
Fillers, questions and personal comments	

9 Tell the class your story.

Active listening

Listen while your classmates tell their stories. Who made their story interesting? How did they do this?