

Speaking L2SLO3

Telling stories

Learning Outcome 3: Tell a story related to personal, social, work, and academic life

How to tell stories

People often tell stories when they're talking to other people. They tell stories with their friends and family, they tell stories at work, and they tell stories to explain things they are studying.

When you tell a story, first you need to say what the story is about. Then you need to give background information, for example when and where the story happens. After that, you can say what happens in the story and then say how the story ends.

FOCUS ▶ 2.1

A Listen to three stories. In what situation is each story happening? Match the stories to the situation.

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|---------|----------------------------|
| Story 1 | a. at work |
| Story 2 | b. at university |
| Story 3 | c. with family and friends |

FOCUS

B Match the sentences from another story (a–d) with the four different parts of a story (1–4).

- a. Ahmad took my results, looked at them, and said, "You didn't do very well." Of course, I wasn't very happy.
- b. It was last year. We were all waiting to get our results at university.
- c. Then Ahmad laughed and said, "Not really. You did well. Look!" Everyone laughed and I laughed too.
- d. Let me tell you a story about exam results.

- 1. What the story is about
- 2. Background information
- 3. What happens in the story
- 4. How the story ends

SPEAKING TASK

FOCUS A Work in pairs. Choose a situation for telling a story (at work, at university, or with family and friends). Then think of an idea for your story.

FOCUS B Work in pairs. Write four sentences to tell your story. Write one sentence for each part of the story.

FOCUS C In groups or in class, take turns telling your stories.