

2.8

SPEAKING

Telling a story

I can tell a story and show interest in someone's story.

1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photo of Tom. Then ask and answer the questions.

- 1 Where was Tom?
- 2 What was he doing?
- 3 What was the problem?

2 **1.43** Read and listen to the story. Compare your ideas in Exercise 1.



Lisa: Hi Tom. How was your holiday in Australia?

Tom: It was really good, thanks ... except for the day I nearly died.

Lisa: What happened?

Tom: I was doing some climbing. At first the sun was shining and I was enjoying myself. But all of a sudden the weather changed. It became really foggy and I couldn't see the path.

Lisa: Oh dear, that sounds frightening.

Tom: I was pretty worried. I continued for a while, but finally I realised I was lost.

Lisa: What did you do?

Tom: Fortunately, I had my phone with me so I called my father – 9,000 miles away in England! He called the Australian police and told them where I was. Then they called me. Unfortunately, my battery went dead after five seconds. It was dark and cold. I sat under a rock, put on my torch and waited.

Lisa: Oh no, what a nightmare!

Tom: Eventually, they found me. I was so relieved. I used to go climbing on my own all the time, but I'll never do it again.

3 There are often five stages in a story. Match stages 1–5 in Tom's story with headings a–e below.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| a background | ☐ | d problem | ☐ |
| b final comment | ☐ | e main events | ☐ |
| c introduction | ☐ | | |

4 Read the SPEAKING FOCUS. Complete the examples with the underlined phrases in the story in Exercise 2.

SPEAKING FOCUS

Telling a story

Use the right tenses

- Past Continuous for the 'background':
The sun was shining and I was enjoying myself.
- Past Simple for the 'problem' and the 'main events':
The weather changed. I couldn't see the path.

Use linkers

- **Beginning:** To start with/At ² _____
- **Middle:** Suddenly/All of a ³ _____ /Luckily/
Fortunately/⁴ _____
- **End:** In the end/Finally/⁵ _____

Say how you felt

I was excited/frightened/surprised/shocked/worried, etc.

Make a 'final comment'

It was the best/worst day of my life! I'll never forget the look on his face! I'll never ⁶ _____.

Listening to a story

Neutral response

Really?/Oh dear./Oh no.

Strong response

That sounds amazing/funny/⁷ _____.

What a great story/⁸a _____ !

Respond with questions

What happened? What did you do?

5 Follow the instructions to prepare your story.

- 1 Choose a topic from the box or one of your own ideas.

a dangerous situation a mistake
some good or bad news some good or bad luck
a nice surprise something that happened on holiday
a problem with technology

- 2 Think about what you are going to say and make notes under the headings for the five stages of a story in Exercise 3.

6 **SPEAKING** Follow the instructions below to practise telling your stories. Then act out your dialogue to the class.

Student A: Use your notes in Exercise 5 to tell the story.

Student B: Use the SPEAKING FOCUS to respond to what Student A says.

ROLE-PLAY 10 **Telling a story**

10 Watch the video and practise. Then role-play your dialogue.