

2.6 Speaking

Telling a personal anecdote

I can tell a personal anecdote about a memorable day out.

- 1 Look at the website. Which days out would you most like to go on? Why?

Are you tired of doing the same old things with your friends? Why not try something different with one of our alternative days out?

- go mountain biking
- visit a gallery or photo exhibition
- sing karaoke
- rent a rowing boat or kayak
- attend a workshop (e.g. dancing or DJing)
- go go-kart racing
- visit an aquarium or zoo



- 2 In pairs, describe the photo in Exercise 1 and answer the questions.

- 1 What might the people be thinking/feeling?
- 2 In your opinion, what factors make a memorable day out?

- 3 Put the parts of an anecdote about a memorable day out in a logical order.

- a where and when the day took place and other background information
- b who was involved
- c why the day was so memorable
- d what the anecdote is going to be about
- e what happened, step by step

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- 4 **CD•1.37 MP3•37** Listen to someone describing a memorable day out and check your ideas in Exercise 3. In pairs, try to retell the anecdote.

- 5 **CD•1.37 MP3•37** Complete the SPEAKING FOCUS with the words in the box. Then listen again and check.

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SPEAKING FOCUS

Introducing the anecdote

(Right, so) I'm going to tell you about (a great day out).

(OK, so) this is a story about (a day I'll never forget.)

This took ¹ _____ about (a month ago).

Sequencing events in the anecdote

² _____ /When/Just after (we got there, the sun came out).

³ _____ /To begin with, (we were the only people there).

As/While (we were sitting there) ...

Suddenly/⁴ _____ of a sudden, (the weather changed).

Describing events vividly

Predictably/⁵ _____ expected, (other people soon started) ...

Unexpectedly/Out of the ⁶ _____, (it started pouring with rain).

Luckily/Fortunately, (after it stopped raining, the sun came out again).

Finishing the anecdote

Without a ⁷ _____, it was (one of the best days I've had in ages).

When I look back (on that day) now, I feel ...

It turned out to be (an unforgettable day out).

Strangely/⁸ _____ enough, (the best days are often the ones you don't really plan).⁹

- 6 **CD•1.38 MP3•38** Read the anecdote and choose the correct options. Then listen and check.

Right, so this ¹took place / is a story about a day I'll never forget. I've always loved music and last month my friend and I went to a DJing workshop. ²To begin with / Just after, we learnt about the equipment. We can't afford our own stuff yet but ³fortunately / out of the blue, we were able to use the decks, mixers and laptops at the centre. ⁴When / While we had understood the basics, it was time to have a go.

⁵Strangely / Predictably, it was really difficult at first, but after a while I started to get the hang of it. It feels and sounds fantastic when you get it right. It turned out to be an ⁶unexpected / unforgettable day. I can't wait for the next workshop.



- 7 In pairs, follow the instructions. Take turns to be A and B.

Student A: Tell a personal anecdote about a memorable day out. Use the SPEAKING FOCUS to help you.

Student B: Listen to your partner's anecdote and think of a question to ask them when they have finished.