

That's so funny!

LEARNING OUTCOME

learn how to tell an anecdote

Everyday life

1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where are the people and what are they doing?
What kind of story do you think they are listening to?



Everyday vocabulary

2 Write the expressions in the box next to the correct headings. Add any other expressions you know.

After that, • Eventually, • I don't believe it!
That sounds hilarious! • Oh, no! • That sounds awful!
That's so funny! • Six years ago
When I was (in Japan) • You're joking!

Set the scene
Show sympathy
Show amusement
Show surprise
Show sequence

Dialogue

3 08 Listen to the dialogue. How did James solve his problem?

James, Sian and Tom are friends. They are having a coffee at Tom's house.

Tom: I'm going to Ella's fancy dress party next week and I don't know what to wear.

James: (1) when I was in Japan.

Sian: What?

James: About six years ago, I was visiting a friend, and there was a fancy dress party.
(2)

Sian: You're joking!

James: I wish I was. One shop was good and the other was bad. At first, I went to the good one but they told me they had no more costumes.

Tom: Poor you!

James: Yes, they said there was a big party and I told them I knew. After that, (3)

Sian: They were out of costumes, too.

Tom: I don't believe it!

James: Nor did I. (4) They found a child's *Spiderman* costume. I was desperate. When I tried it on, the shop assistants all laughed. I must admit it did look funny, but not in a good way.

Tom: That sounds hilarious! What did you do?

James: (5) but they were all using their costumes.

Sian: Oh, no!

James: Eventually, I went to a department store and in the end I bought elephant-themed pyjamas, (6)

Sian: That's so funny!

James: And I had the last laugh. It was cheaper than hiring a costume and everyone loved it!

4 Read and complete the dialogue with the phrases (a–f). Then listen again and check.

- a But there were only two shops where you could hire a costume.
- b I called a lot of friends,
- c ... complete with hood, big ears and trunk.
- d I went to the bad shop and guess what?
- e You'll never guess what happened to me
- f I begged them to find something for me.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: TELLING AN ANECDOTE

Look at the expressions from the dialogue. Who says each one: Tom, James or Sian?

About six years ago Poor you!
At first That sounds hilarious!
You're joking!

Over to you!

5 Work in pairs. You are going to tell each other an anecdote. While one of you tells the anecdote, the other should react appropriately. Follow the steps below and role-play a conversation. Then change roles. Use the expressions in exercise 2 and in the Everyday English Toolkit.

Storyteller: Think about a funny or interesting event that you have experienced that you can tell in a short anecdote. Think about how to set the scene and how to sequence events.

Listener: Listen to the story. Remember to react appropriately to show you are listening.