



## Anecdotes

# What is an anecdote?



- 1) Starting phrase to set the scene
- 2) How the story started  
(background information)
- 3) Main story events
- 4) Ending

# 1) Setting the scene



- ⇒ You're not going to believe this but ...
- ⇒ Did I ever tell you about the time ...?
- ⇒ I'll never forget when ...
- ⇒ Have I ever mentioned ...?
- ⇒ That reminds me of ...
- ⇒ Funny you should say that because ...

## 2) How the story started



- ⇒ It was back in ... / a few years ago
- ⇒ I remember the time when I ...
- ⇒ This was around the time of ...
- ⇒ I'm sure you all know ....
- ⇒ It all began when ...

### 3) Main story events



- ⇒ You should have seen/heard/been there
- ⇒ To top it all off ...
- ⇒ The strange/funny thing was ...
- ⇒ Can you imagine my surprise when ...
- ⇒ By the time I'd realised what had happened ...
- ⇒ There I was ...

## 4) Ending



- ⇒ To cut a long story short ....
- ⇒ So in the end what happened was ...
- ⇒ It seems quite funny now, but it didn't at the time ...
- ⇒ Anyway, it turned out well in the end ... .
- ⇒ The long and the short of it ..



# Reactions

- No way!
- Seriously?
- Really?
- I'm not surprised
- You're joking?
- I can imagine!
- How strange/odd/weird!
- That sounds awful/terrible/hilarious!
- I don't blame you!
- I see what you mean!
- So, what happened?
- You can't be serious
- You were so lucky!



## Top Tips

- 1) Use sequencing words
- 2) Use linking words
- 3) Remember to use your past tenses



Tell me about a holiday.



Tell me about a terrible journey.



Tell me about your best day.



Tell me about your worst day.



Tell me about your most recent birthday.



Tell me about a time you lost something important.



Tell me about a time you  
received a surprise.



Tell me about a time you  
missed an important  
appointment/event.



Tell me about a time that was  
really embarrassing.