



## Anecdotes

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Anecdotes are short stories about something that happened to you or to somebody else. Using anecdotes in your English speaking is a great way to boost your small talk.

When telling an anecdote, try following our four steps.

### 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 ..*

Remember you want your anecdote to be to-the-point and easy to follow. Try using sequencing words and linking words to provide a smooth flow. Remember to use your past tenses too.

If somebody has told you an anecdote, try some of these 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!*