

Anecdotes

Anecdotes are short, personal stories. They are the kind of stories you tell with your friends or family, in a relaxed atmosphere. Often, they are funny, but they can also be scary, embarrassing, or serious.

Anecdotes are often structured like this.

1) Introduction

This is a brief opener which sets the scene and makes it clear to the listener that you are about to tell a story.

Let me tell you about the time....

Did I ever tell you about....?

That reminds me of when....

2) Background

This gives the basic details of when and where the events happened, who you were with, and what was happening before the main point of the story.

I was in high school at the time...

This took place when I was on vacation in Korea...

3) Problem/Funny Event

The main point!

And then....

We couldn't believe it...

4) Conclusion

Tying up the story.

We explained to the owner, and it was fine.

Fortunately, no one was hurt.

We got home ok in the end.

5) Comment / Message

What the storyteller took away from the event.

Since then, I've always been extra careful with...

After that, I learnt never to....

Listen to your partner tell an anecdote, and make notes. Can you find the structure?

Anecdote Notes

Listen to your partners' anecdotes. Take notes.

Introduction		
Background		
Problem / Funny Event		
Conclusion		
Coment / Message		