

## 2.8

## SPEAKING

Telling a story

*I can tell a story and show interest in someone's story.*

- 1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photo of Tom. Then ask and answer the questions.

- 1 Where was Tom?
- 2 What was he doing?
- 3 What was the problem?

- 2 **1.43** Read and listen to the story. Compare your ideas in Exercise 1.



- Lisa: Hi Tom. How was your holiday in Australia?
- Tom: It was really good, thanks ... except for the day I nearly died. 1
- Lisa: What happened?
- Tom: I was doing some climbing. At first the sun was shining and I was enjoying myself. 2
- But all of a sudden the weather changed. 3
- It became really foggy and I couldn't see the path.
- Lisa: Oh dear, that sounds frightening.
- Tom: I was pretty worried. I continued for a while, but finally I realised I was lost.
- Lisa: What did you do?
- Tom: Fortunately, I had my phone with me so I called my father – 9,000 miles away in England! He called the Australian police and told them where I was. Then they called me. Unfortunately, my battery went dead after five seconds. It was dark and cold. I sat under a rock, put on my torch and waited. 4
- Lisa: Oh no, what a nightmare!
- Tom: Eventually, they found me. I was so relieved. I used to go climbing on my own all the time, but I'll never do it again. 5

- 3 There are often five stages in a story. Match stages 1–5 in Tom's story with headings a–e below.

- |                 |                          |               |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| a background    | <input type="checkbox"/> | d problem     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b final comment | <input type="checkbox"/> | e main events | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c introduction  | <input type="checkbox"/> |               |                          |

- 4 Read the **SPEAKING FOCUS**. Complete the examples with the underlined phrases in the story in Exercise 2.

## SPEAKING FOCUS

## Telling a story

## Use the right tenses

- Past Continuous for the 'background':  
The sun <sup>1</sup>was shining and I was enjoying myself.
- Past Simple for the 'problem' and the 'main events':  
The weather changed. I couldn't see the path.

## Use linkers

- **Beginning:** To start with/At <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- **Middle:** Suddenly/All of a <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ /Luckily/  
Fortunately/<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- **End:** In the end/Finally/<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

## Say how you felt

I was excited/frightened/surprised/shocked/worried, etc.

## Make a 'final comment'

It was the best/worst day of my life!!  
I'll never forget the look on his face!!  
I'll never <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

## Listening to a story

## Neutral response

Really?/Oh dear./Oh no.

## Strong response

That sounds amazing/funny/<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
What a great story/<sup>8</sup>a \_\_\_\_\_ !

## Respond with questions

What happened? What did you do?

- 5 Follow the instructions to prepare your story.

- 1 Choose a topic from the box or one of your own ideas.

a dangerous situation   a mistake  
some good or bad news   some good or bad luck  
a nice surprise   something that happened on holiday  
a problem with technology

- 2 Think about what you are going to say and make notes under the headings for the five stages of a story in Exercise 3.

- 6 **SPEAKING** Follow the instructions below to practise telling your stories. Then act out your dialogue to the class.

**Student A:** Use your notes in Exercise 5 to tell the story.

**Student B:** Use the **SPEAKING FOCUS** to respond to what Student A says.

## ROLE-PLAY 10 Telling a story

- 10** Watch the video and practise. Then role-play your dialogue.