

Writing

Making a speech

Reading

1 Most of us don't have to make speeches very often. In what situations do we sometimes make speeches?

Add to the list.

- At a wedding.
- At someone's leaving party at work.

2 Read the speech below. What's the situation? Is it included in the list from exercise 1?

My first memory of Jack is sitting in Luton airport waiting for a delayed flight to Alicante. This long-haired, strangely-dressed young man sat down next to me and started talking to me as if we'd been friends from childhood. My first thought was that he'd mistaken me for someone else but I soon realised that he was the same with everybody. Jack loved people and loved talking to people. It was his way of finding out how the world worked. He used to say 'Why learn something from a book when you can learn so much more from someone else?'

I'm not sure what Jack learned from me but I definitely learnt a lot from him. I learned how important it is to learn from your mistakes, to pick yourself up and move on. I also learned how to survive on water and bread when we got lost in the Pyrenees but that's another story. Jack never worried about himself. He was always too busy thinking of other people.

The last time we saw each other was at Julie's 50th birthday party. How appropriate! The three of us used to be like the three musketeers. We would spend hours solving all the problems of the world. When I heard that he'd passed away, the first thing that came into my head was how lucky I'd been to be sitting in Luton airport waiting for that delayed flight all those years ago.

3 Read the speech again and make notes to complete the table.

Where we met	
Appearance	
Character	
Quote	
Influence	
Anecdote	
Last meeting	

Writing skills: phrases for talking about the past

4 Match the two halves of the sentences. Read the speech again to check your answers.

- 1 My first memory is ...
- 2 My first thought was ...
- 3 I soon realised ...
- 4 He used to say ...
- 5 The last time ...
- 6 The first thing that came into my head was ...

- a ... learning from other people was the most important thing.
- b ... he'd confused me with someone else.
- c ... how fortunate I'd been to meet him.
- d ... seeing Jack on the way to Spain.
- e ... we met was at a social event.
- f ... he acted the same with everybody.

5 Complete these sentences about your past.

- 1 My first memory of school is _____
- 2 The last time I went on a trip was _____
- 3 My _____ used to say _____
- 4 When I was younger I would often _____

Language focus: using *how*

You can use *how* to talk about things you learn and to give extra emphasis to adjectives.

6 Underline examples of these structures used in the speech.

- 1 *how* + *to* + infinitive
- 2 *how* + adjective + subject + verb
- 3 *how* + adjective + *it is* + *to* + infinitive
- 4 *how* + adjective
- 5 *how* + subject + verb

7 Use *how* to complete the sentences.

1 'The exercise works like this.'

She showed me _____

2 'It's important to practise writing.'

She taught me _____

3 'You can say a lot in a few words.'

I learned _____

4 I was lucky to have her as a teacher.

I realised _____

Preparing to write

8 Read the Writing task below. Think of someone to write about. It can be someone you know or an imaginary person. Make notes about the person in the table below.

First meeting or memory	
Appearance	
Character	
Quote	
Influence	
Anecdote	

Writing

Write a speech for one of the situations below.

- a Write a speech about someone who is leaving your class or your place of work for a leaving party.
- b Write a speech about someone from your past who had a big influence on you for a formal occasion such as party or wedding.
- c Write a speech about a famous person who is no longer alive and who you admire for a college debate.

Useful language

- We're all here today to ...
- I'd like to start/end by saying ...
- ... but that's another story.
- When I heard the news ...
- We're all going to miss ...

