

4B First times

Activity type: Speaking and listening – Discussion – Pairs / Whole class

Aim: To practise using the past simple to talk about your experiences

Language: Past time expressions – Use at any point after 4.1.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners and cut each worksheet along the dotted line.

Time: 20 minutes

- 1 Learners work in pairs. Give one learner in each pair a copy of part A of the worksheet and the other a copy of part B.
- 2 Explain that they are going to find out how much their partner remembers about some of the important events in his/her life using the *First times* questionnaire. Learners read the items on the questionnaire and add two more similar questions in the spaces at the bottom. They then swap questionnaires with their partner.
- 3 Learners choose three events which they can remember and are happy to talk about.

Preparation on the board

At this stage, you could get learners to suggest what kind of information they will need to mention, and write these points on the board:

- *how old you were*
- *who you were with*
- *where it happened ...*

Learners should also tell each other how they *felt* in each situation. You may want to present some adjectives to help them do this, e.g. *frightened, excited, nervous, happy, relaxed ...*

- 4 Learners describe the events they have chosen to their partner, and find out how much they have in common with each other, e.g. whether they were the same age when they first did something, or whether they experienced similar feelings.
- 5 Ask pairs to feed back to the class, explaining how similar or different their experiences of the events were.

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A



My first day at school was about 20 years ago, when I was 5 years old. I went to school with my mum, and the teacher took me to the class. I played games with the other children. It was really exciting and I had a lot of fun!

What do you remember about ...

... your first day at school?

... the first time you had a birthday party?

... when you learnt to swim?

... the first time you went to the dentist's?

... your first trip to another country?

... _____

... _____



B



It was about 15 years ago, when I was 10 years old. I was at primary school, and it was really difficult. I was very nervous, but I worked hard and I passed!

What do you remember about ...

... the first time you did an exam?

... the first time you flew in an aeroplane?

... your first holiday?

... when you learnt to ride a bicycle?

... the first time you saw the sea?

... _____

... _____