

# 4A The first date

**Activity type:** Spoken narration – Picture story – Pairs/Groups

**Aim:** To tell a story using past narrative

**Language:** Past simple and progressive for narrative – Use any time after 4.2.

**Preparation:** Make one copy of the cartoon for every two learners or each group and cut out the individual frames.

**Time:** 30 minutes

- 1 Ask learners, as a class, to retell the taxi story on p36 of the Coursebook. Prompt them with questions as necessary. Make them aware that the story involves two typical narrative tenses: past simple and past progressive.
- 2 Tell learners that they are going to tell a story starting with a taxi ride. The events happened a few years ago. Divide the learners into pairs or groups and give one copy of the cut-up picture story to each pair or group. Try to give learners their set of pictures in alphabetical order, A on the top, H on the bottom. Learners order the pictures to represent a plausible story and write the numbers 1–8 in the boxes beside the letters to show the order they have chosen. (Emphasise that there may be more than one possible story. However, for your reference, the most likely order for the story is: E, B, C, H, F, A, G, D, the order in which they are represented on the intact worksheet.)
- 3 Pairs or groups practise telling the story according to the order they have chosen for their pictures. (Either tell them that the narrator is the man in the story or leave them to decide whether to tell the story in the first or third person.)
- 4 Each group tells its story to another group or to the whole class.

## Weaker classes

Give each pair or group a copy of the cut-up picture story. Dictate the text below and ask learners to order the pictures to reproduce the story accordingly. Dictate again as a check. Learners practise retelling the story in their pairs or groups, using the pictures as prompts.

*I'll never forget my first date with my wife, Angela. I wanted the evening to be special, so I booked a table at an expensive restaurant and ordered a taxi to take us there. Unfortunately, when I was paying for the taxi, I left my wallet behind.*

*The restaurant was fantastic, the food was wonderful and we were really enjoying ourselves when the waiter came with the bill. I couldn't find my wallet, and Angela didn't have any money with her, so I had to go home and get my credit card while Angela waited in the restaurant.*

*She was really angry and embarrassed – we didn't talk at all when we were going back to her flat, and she didn't even kiss me goodbye!*

*I was feeling miserable, so I went to a café for a cup of coffee. I was thinking about Angela when I suddenly noticed the first taxi driver. He was sitting at a table near the door eating an enormous meal and looking very pleased ...*

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