

4B Anecdotes: True or false?

Activity type: Speaking – Storytelling game – Groups of three or four

Aim: To tell personal anecdotes relating to the past

Language: Informal narrative, past forms – Use any time after 4.3.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of three or four learners. Cut up the cards and keep them in sets of two 'true' and two 'false'.

Time: 30–45 minutes

- 1 Tell three short anecdotes about yourself in the first person, using past forms. Two should be true (i.e. things that really happened to the you) and one false. (This false anecdote could be invented, but it is usually a good idea to use something that actually happened to someone else since it sounds more authentic.) Tell learners that one of the stories is not true and invite them to guess which.
- 2 Tell learners they are going to play a game in which they will tell true or false stories to the class. (The stories will all be short and anecdotal, like the ones you have told.) The class will then guess which stories are true and which are false.
- 3 Divide learners into groups of three or four. Encourage groups to sit as far apart from each other as possible so that their discussions cannot be overheard. Give each group a set of four cards, face down. Learners each draw a card and, in their groups, practise either true or false anecdotes according to which card they drew. As they do so, monitor their discussions and help with unknown language. During this part of the activity, learners should make notes on their cards to prompt them when they relate their anecdotes to the class.
- 4 Group by group, individual learners tell their anecdotes to the class. When each group's anecdotes are told, the rest of the class votes on which they think are true and which they think are false. Learners then hold up their cards to reveal the truth.

4B Anecdotes: True or false?

TRUE

Notes: _____

TRUE

Notes: _____

FALSE

Notes: _____

FALSE

Notes: _____
