

9B In the middle of the night

Activity type: Speaking – Telling a story – Pairs / Whole class

Aim: To speculate on what has happened in a story / understand a joke in English

Language: Present perfect for present results of past events/actions – Use any time after 9.2.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners.

Time: 20 minutes

- 1 Give each pair of learners a copy of the cartoon story. Tell them to cover up the whole story and explain that you will ask them to uncover it frame by frame. Upon the uncovering of each frame, you will ask questions.
- 2 Learners uncover each frame as you ask the following questions:
 - Frame 1: *Who do you think lives here? Ensure vocabulary item a swing is covered, without making it obvious. (For example: Do you think it's a family home? Why?)*
 - Frame 2: *What time do you think it is? What makes you think this?*
 - Frame 3: *What's happening now? Why do you think the woman is trying to wake her husband up? (Elicit: Maybe she's heard a noise.)*
 - Frame 4: *What's happening? Why has the man stood up? How do you think he feels?*
 - Frames 5 and 6: *What do you think has happened? What does the young man want? What do you think he is asking? (Elicit/Teach 'push' as a noun and try to elicit that the younger man has broken down / run out of petrol. Teach 'give someone a push' in this context. Ask for other contexts to which this expression might apply, e.g. skiing, boating, going down a water slide.)*
 - Frame 7: *Where are the people now? What do you think has happened?*
 - Frame 8: *Who are the people in the car? Who do you think the other man is? Why do you think she's telling him this?*
 - Frame 9: *What's happening now? Why has the man decided to put on a cardigan?*
 - Frame 10: *What's the man doing now? Is the other man there? Where do you think he has gone?*
 - Frame 11: *Where is the man now? How do you think he feels? What do you think has happened?*
- 3 Now tell the joke below.

A couple were watching TV one night but they had fallen asleep because it was so late. The woman heard a noise outside and woke up. She woke her husband up and asked him to find out what was going on.

The man went to the front door and opened it. Outside was a young man.

"I'm sorry. I know it's very late, but could you give me a push?"

"What?"

"A push, could you give me a push?"

"It's 11 o'clock. I was asleep. No, I can't give you a push!"

The man went back and told his wife about the young man who wanted a push. She was a little annoyed.

"But Bob, don't you remember when we were first married? Our car broke down in the middle of the country and a nice man gave us a push and helped us to get home. That young man might be in the same situation. Go and help him!"

So the man got up and put his cardigan on because it was cold outside. He went to the front door and opened it, but the young man was not there. He called out: "Hey! You! The man who wanted a push! Are you there?"

There was a voice in the distance ...

"Yes! Over here!"

"Well, where are you? I can't see you."

"I'm on your swing ... Can you give me a push, please?"

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