



A. READING

Before you read

Work in pairs. Look at the pictures below and guess what is happening in each of them.



While you read

Read the story and then do the tasks that follow.

MY MOST EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE

My most embarrassing experience happened a few years ago, when I was a grade 9 student. In those days, my biggest dream was a red hat – a floppy cotton hat like the one my pop star idol wore in her video clip. I thought I would look great in it.

My father knew this, so on my birthday he gave me some money so that I could buy the hat for myself. I was extremely excited and decided to go to the shop at once. I got on the bus and sat down next to a schoolboy about my age. The boy glanced at me and turned away. There was a sneaky look on his face, but I didn't think much about it. I was busy imagining how I would look in the hat. After a while, I turned round and noticed that the boy's schoolbag was open. Inside it, I saw a wad of dollar notes exactly like the ones my father had given me. I quickly looked into my own bag – the notes had gone! I was sure that the boy was a thief. He had stolen my money. I didn't want to make a fuss, so I decided just to take my money back from the schoolboy's bag, without saying a word about it. So I carefully put my hand into the boy's bag, took the notes and put them in my own bag.


With the money I bought the pretty hat of my dreams. When I got home, I showed it to my father.

“How did you pay for it?” he asked.

“With the money you gave me for my birthday, of course, Dad,” I replied.


“Oh? What's that then?” he asked, as he pointed to a wad of dollar notes on the table.

Can you imagine how I felt then?

 **Task 1.** The words/phrases in the box all appear in the passage. Use them to fill the blanks in the sentences.

making a fuss sneaky glanced embarrassing idols

1. The girl was so shy that she didn't look at him in the face. She just _____ at him and looked away.
2. She complains noisily about anything she doesn't like. She is the type of person who is always _____.
3. She was in a very _____ situation. She felt so stupid and didn't know what to say.
4. Teenagers nowadays often have their own _____ who they really love and imitate in different ways.
5. I don't like the look of that man. There is something _____ about him.

 **Task 2.** *Work in pairs.* Put the pictures of the events (on page 22) in the order they happened in the story.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Picture ... | 2. Picture ... | 3. Picture ... |
| 4. Picture ... | 5. Picture ... | 6. Picture ... |


 **Task 3.** Answer the questions.

1. What did the girl wish to have when she was in grade 9?
2. Why did her father give her some money on her birthday?
3. What did she see in the boy's bag?
4. Why did she decide to take the money from the boy's bag without saying anything about it?
5. What did she do with the money?

After you read


Work in groups. Discuss the question: What do you think the girl had to do after she discovered that the money she had taken from the boy's bag was not hers?

B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1. Work in pairs.** Match the things you might have done or experienced in box A with how the experience might have affected you in box B.


Example: 1 – d

A	B
1. speaking English to a native English speaker	a. makes you love your country more
2. being seriously ill	b. teaches you a lesson and makes you study harder
3. travelling to other parts of the country	c. makes you appreciate your health more
4. failing an exam	d. makes you more interested in learning English
5. talking to a famous pop star	e. changes your attitude to pop stars

 **Task 2. Work in pairs.** A student is talking to her friend about one of her past experiences and how it affected her. The lines in their conversation are jumbled. Put them in the correct order, then practise the dialogue.



- a) I was walking along Trang Tien Street when an English girl came up to me and asked me the way to Hoan Kiem Lake. I told her, then we started talking about the lake.
- b) Have you ever spoken English to a native speaker?
- c) How did the experience affect you?
- d) Yes. I talked to an English girl last summer.
- e) What did you talk about?
- f) Well, it made me more interested in learning English.
- g) Everything about the lake: its name, the great turtles in it, etc.
- h) How did you meet her?

 **Task 3. Work in pairs.** Underline the structures used to talk about past experiences in the dialogue in Task 2, then use the structures and the ideas in Task 1 to make similar dialogues.

Useful structures:

- Have you ever ...?
- How did it happen?
- When did it happen?
- How did the experience affect you?

C. LISTENING

Before you listen

Work in groups. Look at the picture and say what is happening in it.



• *Listen and repeat.*


memorable
terrified

scream
replaced

gas stove
unforgettable


escape
protected

While you listen

 **Task 1.** Christina is being interviewed about the most unforgettable experience in her life. Listen to the interview, and then decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Christina is a businesswoman.
2. The fire happened three years ago.
3. The fire started in the bedroom.
4. When the fire started, Christina was reading a book.
5. Her mother came and rescued her.

T F

 **Task 2.** Listen to the second part of the dialogue and fill in the gaps in the summary of Christina's story below.

Although I lost many things in the fire, the experience helped me to grow up. Before the fire, I was selfish. I always complained to my mother about how (1) _____ my room was or how few clothes I had. Then the fire came and destroyed (2) _____ we owned. But slowly I began to realise that I didn't really need those things. I just needed my (3) _____. After all, you can get new clothes any time, but a family can never be (4) _____. The fire (5) _____ many things from me, but it gave me something, too. It taught me to (6) _____ my family more than things.

After you listen

Christina says that family is more important than things. Do you agree or disagree with her? Why? Exchange your ideas with a partner.

D. WRITING

Writing a personal letter about a past experience

Write a letter to your pen friend telling him/her about one of your most memorable past experiences. Your letter should include the following main points:

- when it happened
- where it happened
- how it happened
- who was involved
- how the experience affected you

E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

● **Pronunciation:** / m / - / n / - / ŋ /

● **Grammar:**

1. Present simple indicating past time
2. Tense revision: the past simple, past progressive and past perfect

Pronunciation

● *Listen and repeat.*

/ m /

may

make

summer

home

small

/ n /

nose

nine

money

seven

snow

/ ŋ /

wrong

running

bringing

sing

morning

● *Practise reading aloud these sentences.*

1. Good morning. I want an apartment in central London.
2. We have an inexpensive apartment in Northend Avenue.
3. I remember meeting him on a nice summer afternoon.
4. Mr. King is singing next door.
5. He's holding a string in his fingers.
6. He loves spending his holidays in his small summer house.

Grammar

Exercise 1. Use the correct present tense forms of the verbs in brackets in the story below. The first one has been done for you as an example.

The story is about a girl called Little Red Riding Hood who (0. live) lives with her mother. Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother (1. invite) _____ her to her cottage, so one fine day she (2. set) _____ off to visit her. The little girl (3. get) _____ ready, (4. wave) _____ goodbye to her mother and (5. promise) _____ to be careful. On her arm she (6. carry) _____ a basket which (7. contain) _____ a cake her mother (8. bake) _____ specially. It (9. be) _____ a lovely spring morning, the sun (10. shine) _____ and the birds (11. sing) _____, feeling happy that the winter (12. be) _____ over.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences by putting the verbs into the past simple or past progressive.

Examples:

Do you like this picture? My uncle _____ it. (paint)

– *Do you like this picture? My uncle **Painted** it.*

We _____ lunch when we _____ the news. (have, hear)

– *We **were having** lunch when we **heard** the news.*

1. He _____ his arm when he _____ football. (break, play)

2. Julia _____ her first novel when she _____ 19 years old. (write, be)

3. I _____ on the computer when the fire _____ out. (work, break)

4. When it _____ to rain, they _____ through the forest. (start, walk)

5. He _____ us about his marriage when we _____ afternoon tea. (tell, have)

6. Sorry, I _____ to you. I _____ about something else. (not listen, think)

7. I _____ you last night, but you _____. What _____ you _____? (phone, not answer, do)
8. Mary _____ her glasses at the time, so she _____ what kind of car the man _____. (not wear, not notice, drive)

Exercise 3. Write the sentences, putting the verbs in each sentence into the past simple or the past perfect.

Example:

When the police (arrive), the car (go).

– *When the police **arrived**, the car **had gone**.*

1. They (eat) everything by the time I (arrive) at the party.

2. When I (find) my purse, someone (take) the money out of it.

3. By the time I (get) into town, the shops (close).

4. When they (get) to the station, the train (leave).

5. By the time you (get) her letter, she (arrive) in Paris.

6. The police (pay) no attention to Clare's complaint because she (phone) them so many times before.

7. I (go) to the post office to ask about my package, but they (say) that it (not arrive) yet.

8. When I (look) at the new dress for half an hour, I (ask) how much it (cost).
