



FIRSTS

Learners discuss important 'firsts' in their lives

Level:	Pre-Intermediate - Advanced
Target Audience:	Secondary, Adults
Language / Skills Focus:	Simple Past, Speaking
Activity Time:	20 - 30 minutes
Materials:	None

IN CLASS

- 1 With the class, brainstorm as many important 'firsts' in people's lives as they can think of. Write their ideas on the board. A list that a group of mine once suggested included their first day at school, teacher, bicycle, memory, kiss, watch, teddy-bear, part-time job, record, girlfriend and boyfriend.
- 2 Choose one of the ideas on the board (e.g. your first language lesson) and tell your learners your own memories of this event. Let them ask you questions if they wish.
- 3 Invite two or three learners to tell the class their own stories of their first language lesson.
- 4 Pair learners and tell them they should take turns at choosing a 'first' from the list on the board and telling their partner the story.
- 5 Tell pairs that they have 20 minutes to exchange as many stories as they can. Check that they understand the instructions and begin the activity.
- 6 While the activity is in progress, circulate to help with any vocabulary problems, to enjoy your learners' stories yourself, and perhaps to make a note of any errors for follow-up work in a later session.
- 7 Finally, invite learners to share with the class any particularly interesting (or funny, or moving) stories they heard.

COMMENT

It can be a source of real pleasure for learners to tell stories about people, places, events and even objects that they thought they had long forgotten. Watching the reawakening of memories from the past spreading over their faces makes this activity wonderfully enjoyable.

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