

## That's so funny!

### LEARNING OUTCOME

learn how to tell an anecdote

#### Everyday life

### 1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where are the people and what are they doing?  
What kind of story do you think they are listening to?



#### Everyday vocabulary

### 2 Write the expressions in the box next to the correct headings. Add any other expressions you know.

After that, • Eventually, • I don't believe it!  
That sounds hilarious! • Oh, no! • That sounds awful!  
That's so funny! • Six years ago  
When I was (in Japan) • You're joking!

- Set the scene .....
- Show sympathy .....
- Show amusement .....
- Show surprise .....
- Show sequence .....

#### Dialogue

### 3 08 Listen to the dialogue. How did James solve his problem?

James, Sian and Tom are friends. They are having a coffee at Tom's house.

**Tom:** I'm going to Ella's fancy dress party next week and I don't know what to wear.

**James:** (1) ..... when I was in Japan.

**Sian:** What?

**James:** About six years ago, I was visiting a friend, and there was a fancy dress party.  
(2) .....

**Sian:** You're joking!

**James:** I wish I was. One shop was good and the other was bad. At first, I went to the good one but they told me they had no more costumes.

**Tom:** Poor you!

**James:** Yes, they said there was a big party and I told them I knew. After that, (3) .....

**Sian:** They were out of costumes, too.

**Tom:** I don't believe it!

**James:** Nor did I. (4) ..... They found a child's *Spiderman* costume. I was desperate. When I tried it on, the shop assistants all laughed. I must admit it did look funny, but not in a good way.

**Tom:** That sounds hilarious! What did you do?

**James:** (5) ..... but they were all using their costumes.

**Sian:** Oh, no!

**James:** Eventually, I went to a department store and in the end I bought elephant-themed pyjamas, (6) .....

**Sian:** That's so funny!

**James:** And I had the last laugh. It was cheaper than hiring a costume and everyone loved it!

### 4 Read and complete the dialogue with the phrases (a–f). Then listen again and check.

- a But there were only two shops where you could hire a costume.
- b I called a lot of friends,
- c ... complete with hood, big ears and trunk.
- d I went to the bad shop and guess what?
- e You'll never guess what happened to me
- f I begged them to find something for me.

#### EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: TELLING AN ANECDOTE

Look at the expressions from the dialogue. Who says each one: Tom, James or Sian?

- About six years ago      Poor you!
- At first                      That sounds hilarious!
- You're joking!

#### Over to you!

### 5 Work in pairs. You are going to tell each other an anecdote. While one of you tells the anecdote, the other should react appropriately. Follow the steps below and role-play a conversation. Then change roles. Use the expressions in 2 and in the Everyday English Toolkit.

**Storyteller:** Think about a funny or interesting event that you have experienced that you can tell in a short anecdote. Think about how to set the scene and how to sequence events.

**Listener:** Listen to the story. Remember to react appropriately to show you are listening.