

TELLING A STORY AND EXPRESSING SURPRISE AND DISBELIEF WHEN YOU ARE LISTENING

1 Read the conversation in which Elliot tells Daisy a story. How does Daisy feel about the story?

- A surprised
- B annoyed
- C not interested



Elliot: I went to see a magic show last week.

Daisy: Really? Was it good?

Elliot: Yes, it was amazing! First, the magician had a big wooden box and he showed us that it was empty. Then he closed it and opened it again, and loads of birds flew out! I couldn't believe my eyes!

Daisy: Wow! What happened next?

Elliot: Well, this was the best bit! He needed someone to go up on the stage with him. I was sitting at the front of the theatre and guess what? He chose me! I was so excited!

Daisy: No way! What did you do?

Elliot: I held a bowl of water for him. At first there were no fish in it, then he waved a cloth over it and it was full of fish.

Daisy: That's amazing!

Elliot: And then he waved the cloth over it again and the fish disappeared! It was great! And I watched really carefully, but I couldn't see how he did it!

Daisy: That's really cool!

2 Read the conversation again. Decide if the sentences are true or false.

- 1 Elliot was very surprised when he saw all the birds.
- 2 Elliot wasn't very happy when the magician chose him.
- 3 Daisy thinks the trick with the fish was very good.
- 4 Elliot knows how the magician made the fish disappear.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR TELLING A STORY AND EXPRESSING SURPRISE AND DISBELIEF WHEN YOU ARE LISTENING

Telling a story

Using the past simple for the main events in the story:
He needed someone to go up on the stage with him.

Using the past continuous for longer actions in the story:
I was sitting at the front of the theatre ...

Making your story seem more exciting:
I couldn't believe my eyes! Can you believe it? Guess what?

Adding personal comments to make your story more interesting:
I was really happy! It was great / amazing / really cool! It was terrible!

Listening

Expressing surprise:
Really? Wow! That's amazing! I find that hard to believe!

Expressing disbelief:
You're joking! Are you serious? No way!

Asking questions:
What happened next? What did you do?

3 Read the **Key Language** box. Then read the conversation in Exercise 1 again. Find:

- 1 one verb in the past continuous
- 2 three verbs in the past simple
- 3 two expressions that Elliot uses to make his story seem more exciting
- 4 two personal comments that Elliot adds
- 5 three expressions that Daisy uses to express surprise
- 6 one expression that Daisy uses to express disbelief
- 7 three questions that Daisy asks

4 Match the halves of the expressions.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 I couldn't believe | A terrible! |
| 2 I was | B way! |
| 3 It was | C what? |
| 4 No | D my eyes! |
| 5 Are you | E really happy! |
| 6 Guess | F serious? |

5 Complete the expressions in the mini dialogues with the correct words.



A: I saw someone doing magic tricks in the city centre last night. He asked me to help him do a trick.

¹
believe it?

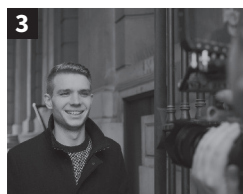
B: Wow! ²
amazing!



A: I lost my school bag last week and it had all my revision notes in it!

³
really upset!

B: ⁴
serious? That's terrible!



A: ⁵ what? My brother was on TV last night!

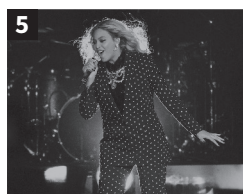
B: No ⁶ !



A: I saw Leonardo DiCaprio in a restaurant when I was on holiday.

I ⁷
my eyes!

B: ⁸ joking!



A: I saw a poster in town last night. It says that Beyoncé is going to do a concert in our town next summer.

B: Really?

⁹
hard to believe.

6 Work in pairs. Think of two questions to ask the people in Exercise 5 about their experiences.

What kind of trick did you help him with?

Did you notice how he did the trick?

7 You are going to tell your partner about something interesting or surprising that happened to you. Make notes in the table to plan your ideas.

When was it?	
What happened?	
How did you feel?	
Expressions you can use to make your story seem more exciting.	
Personal comments to make your story more interesting.	

8 Work in pairs. Tell your story to your partner. When you listen, express surprise or disbelief and ask questions to find out more.