


Unit 9 Writing for talking – An early memory ➔ p93

- 1 You are going to give a talk about one of your earliest memories. Write some notes under these headings.
 - Where were you? • Why do you remember it?
 - What happened?
- 2  9.7 Read and listen to someone talking about an early memory. Answer the questions.
 - 1 What is the speaker's name?
 - 2 What was her sister *not* keen to do? Why?
 - 3 What was the weather like on the memorable day? How did it affect both sisters?
 - 4 Why was the speaker so upset with her sister?
- 3 Now read the talk carefully and answer the questions.
 - 1 There are four paragraphs. What is the aim of each?
 - 2 What *background* information is given?
 - 3 What are the main points of the memory?
 - 4 How does the speaker conclude the tale?
 - 5 Read aloud the first two paragraphs with a partner. Pay attention to pauses, stress and intonation.

Preparing your talk

- 4 Write a talk to give your class. Use your notes and these guidelines.
 - 1 **Give the title** *The title of my talk is ...*
 - 2 **Introduce your topic**
I'd like to share a particular memory about ...
One of my earliest memories was when ...
Today I want to talk about X because ...
 - 3 **Give some background**
As you all probably know, I ...
I was just four years old ...
What is more I ...
 - 4 **Introduce your particular memory**
Anyway, one day it was raining and ...
I want to talk about one particular day ...
What happened was this, ...
 - 5 **Tell your story as it happened**
On that day ...
After that I ...
Finally ...
 - 6 **Conclude**
To this day I still remember ...
I'll never forget ...
Thank you all very much for listening to me.
Are there any questions?
- 5 Read your talk aloud to yourself. Think about pauses and the words you want to stress. Time yourself.

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An early memory of school

Some of my clearest and earliest memories are of my first school. So I'd like to share a memory about that. A memory that still upsets me after all these years.

I was five years old and had just started school. It was quite a long way from my house and there were no school buses, so I had to walk. My sister, who's 11 years older than me, went to the 'big' school, which was next to mine, so my mum sometimes asked her to take me to school. She was *not* keen to do this. She had no time for a small, irritating sister dragging along behind her. She liked to meet up with her 'cool' friends. What's more, because her school day started later than mine she was happy to dawdle and chat. She refused to hurry to get me there on time. I was always an anxious child and I would tug at her sleeve and fret about being late. She'd just shake me off.

Anyway, one day was particularly bad. It was pouring with rain and we splashed through puddles as we walked. My sister was moaning all the time about how the rain was ruining her hair because she was hoping to meet a certain boy on the way. On that day he didn't materialize, and this put her in a very bad mood. I was wearing my new red 'welly' boots and they were really difficult to pull on and off. I was full of fear, Miss Marks, my teacher, would kill me if I was late again. Finally, we got there and my sister ran off, leaving me to cope with the wellies. The cloakroom was empty, and I sat tearfully on the bench, tugging at the wretched boots. I put on my indoor shoes and crept into the back of the classroom. I was very late and very scared. The other kids were making mosaic pictures with lots of different-coloured bits of sticky paper. I'd been so looking forward to doing this. Art was my best subject. I'd planned to do a beautiful portrait of my black-and-white cat. Miss Marks called across the room, 'Elizabeth, late again!' I hung my head. 'You'll just have to sit in the corner and do a jigsaw.' So, I did, silently weeping and cursing my sister. I never did make that mosaic picture of my cat.

To this day my sister insists she can't remember anything about this. However, I believe it's the reason I have such a problem with lateness. I always arrive on time.

