

Telling true stories

Stages of a story

True stories are often told in the same five stages. It is useful to learn the kind of language used in each stage.

Stage 1	Introduction to the story: what kind of story it is
Stage 2	The beginning of the story: how it started
Stage 3	The main events in order
Stage 4	The end: often saying how things are now
Stage 5	A final comment about the story, your takeaway from it

Matching

Match the events in Miguel's story to stages 1 to 5 in the box above.

Stage	And he went to school, first of all in a rainforest town, and then to a college in Lima, and then he went to study in the United States,
Stage	It's about this young man from Peru, born in the rainforest, but he had a dream that he would be educated,
Stage	This is a heartwarming story of real determination.
Stage	Which shows the remarkable lengths people will go to avoid Sting*!
Stage	And then finally he's now ended up as a postgraduate student at Oxford University,

- The artist and singer Sting has been a long-time advocate for rainforest protection.

Expressions for telling true stories

Stage 1	This is a (funny/sad, terrible, etc.) story...
Stage 2	It's about (my father/a person on the autism spectrum)...
Stage 3	First, and, (and), then, next, after that, etc. (+ simple past)
Stage 4	And so, finally, in the end, he/she has ended up...
Stage 5	, WHICH (I think is awful / great)

Practice

Read one of the [Autism stories](#), make a timeline diagram, and note down important facts. Tell the story to your neighbor using the expressions above.