

## SPEAKING ACTIVITY

### Reminiscences

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- Objective** : To enable learners to revisit, reflect on, and communicate their memories to others effectively and interestingly in English
- Preparation** : Recalling their pleasant as well as unpleasant memories of their past lives (however young, one has a past) as often as possible and reliving those experiences imaginatively and formulating views on them
- Participation** : In pairs
- Duration** : About 5 minutes
- Procedure** :
- The teacher shares with the class one of his childhood memories, perhaps a traditional game he played with his friends when he was very young.
  - The teacher gets an articulate volunteer to share with the class one of his/her interesting experiences in the primary/high school, perhaps a mischief that a group of friends played, a quarrel with a friend and so on.
  - The teacher, then, informs the class about the significance of reminiscences and instructs them to recall some good/bad memories and share them with their friends.
  - The students in pairs could reminisce about several events such as their childhood days, the prizes won, gifts received, bench



mates, festivals/birthday celebrated, picnic with their family/friends, the food they ate in a restaurant and so on.

- A few pairs who have had interesting exchanges could be asked to redo them for the whole class.
- Feedback by the class, including the teacher, is to be given on their performance, especially focusing on their linguistic competence.

**Learning outcomes:**

- Learners realize the role of reminiscing in making their communication engaging and meaningful.
- Learners understand that even mulling over past experiences, pleasant or unpleasant ones, could turn them into fluent and effective communicators.

**Further Activities:**

Learners should reminisce about past happenings whenever an appropriate opportunity arises. A common feature of interactions among friends/family/relatives is that they often reminisce about their past.

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*"I am hopelessly in love with a memory*

*An echo from another time, another place."* – Michal Foucault

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## GRAMMAR CAN BE FUN

**'I've just had the most awful time,' said a boy to his friend.**

**'First I got angina pectoris, then arteriosclerosis. Just as I was recovering, I got psoriasis. They gave me hypodermics and, to top it all, tonsillitis was followed by appendectomy.'**

**'Jeez! How did you pull through?' sympathized his astounded friends.**

**'I don't know,' the boy replied, 'toughest spelling test I ever had!'**

**Teacher: Lisa, can February march?**

**Lisa: No, miss, April may.**