

3A

Develop your writing

- **Goal:** write a personal anecdote
- **Focus:** showing the time and sequence of events



1 What do these sayings about standing up for yourself mean? Which one(s) do you agree with?

It takes courage to stand up to your enemies. It takes even more courage to stand up to your friends.

If you don't stand up for yourself, no one else is going to stand up for you.

The best way to stand up to your enemies is not to be like them.

It's not easy to stand up for yourself. It's even harder to sit down and listen to the other side.

2 Read two personal stories. Answer the questions with 1, 2, both or neither.

In which story:

- 1 did someone lose money?
- 2 did the event happen recently?
- 3 did someone learn a lesson for the future?
- 4 did someone feel ashamed at the outcome?
- 5 did someone feel humiliated?
- 6 was someone outnumbered?
- 7 did someone seem satisfied at the outcome?
- 8 was someone inspired to make more life changes?

Question of the day!

Do you remember a time when you stood up for yourself?

1 Divit, Life is worth living!

Answered 19th Jan

I'll never forget the time I stood up for myself to a 'friend'. This was **in the late 90s** and I was in middle school. **One day**, we had to do a science project together on volcanoes. She didn't do anything to help. She just kept making excuses and **in the meantime** I got on with the project alone. When it was finished, my friend asked if she could see it. **As soon as** she had it in her hands, she gave it to the teacher and made it look as though it was all her work. I **immediately** realised what a fool I'd been but I was determined to stand up for myself. **The following day**, I asked the teacher if I could present our project to the class. The teacher said I could, so I stood at the front of the class and said, 'I want to tell you all about volcanoes, but first I want my friend to tell you whose project this really is.' My friend didn't know what to say and started crying. I think she definitely learnt her lesson that day – and so did I! **Nowadays** I never let anyone else take credit for my work.

2 Fan, Stand up for yourself!

Answered 20th Jan

Not so long ago, a friend of mine decided it was time to quit her job. **After years of** working for the same bank, she decided she'd had enough. 'I'm tired of being a doormat and letting people walk all over me,' she said. We went out with her on her last day and celebrated the end of her old life and the beginning of a new one. She looked so happy that it made me wonder if I should also quit my job. **Over time**, I'd also become unhappy at work.

On the way home that evening, I waited for a taxi as usual. **Eventually**, I was first in line and a taxi pulled up, but **all of a sudden** a young couple jumped the queue and got into the taxi. I was shocked. I don't like making a fuss but I remembered what my friend had said so I got in to the taxi with them. They were astonished and started arguing with me. Even the taxi driver started arguing with me. **Meanwhile**, I just calmly did my make-up. **In the end**, they got out.

A fortnight later, I quit my job. I realised that I didn't want to be a doormat, either.

3 Match the phrases in bold in the stories with meanings 1–15.

Story 1

- 1 the action happened straight after another action
As soon as
- 2 on a day in the past – it's not important which day
- 3 between 1996 and 1999
- 4 the action happened without delay
- 5 at the present time
- 6 the day after
- 7 during another action or event

Story 2

- 8 after a longer period of time – it's not important how long
Eventually
- 9 with the natural passing of time
- 10 quite recently
- 11 after two weeks
- 12 many years after the start of something
- 13 during another action or event
- 14 after a period of time or all other events
- 15 suddenly, without warning

4 Read the Focus box then find in the stories in Exercise 2 one more example for 1–4.

Showing the time and sequence of events

Certain words and phrases tell you about the timing and sequence of events in the past.

1 Showing when something happened:

*This was **in the late 90s** and I was in middle school.*

***Not so long ago**, a friend of mine decided ...*

***Nowadays** I never let anyone else take credit for my work.*

2 Showing how much time passed:

***Over time**, I'd also become unhappy at work.*

***The following day**, I asked the teacher ...*

***After years of working for the same bank**, ...*

***Eventually**, I was first in line ...*

***In the end**, they got out.*

3 Showing that two events happened at the same time:

***In the meantime**, I got on with the project alone.*

4 Showing how quickly the event happened:

***All of a sudden** a young couple jumped the queue.*

***As soon as** she had it in her hands, she gave it to the teacher.*

5 a Choose the correct alternatives. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 This was *meanwhile/eventually/in the early 00s* and I had just started secondary school.
- 2 *Over time/Nowadays/In the meantime*, I became more and more fed up with my job.
- 3 *As soon as/All of a sudden/In the end*, a young guy appeared and asked if I needed help.
- 4 I worked hard doing two jobs, but *meanwhile/nowadays/one day* prices were going up and up.
- 5 *We after years of waiting/immediately/the following day* decided to buy tickets, whatever the cost.
- 6 *In the end/The following day/After years of searching*, I found a friendship group that suited me.
- 7 We waited and waited. *Eventually/In the end/In the mid 80s*, we just left.
- 8 *Not so long ago/In the early 2010s/Nowadays* there are many more ways to fill your free time.

b Work in pairs and compare your answers.

6 Have you ever stood up for yourself in a way that surprised you? If so, what happened? If not, have you ever wanted to?

Prepare

7 a You're going to write a personal anecdote about a time when you stood up for yourself. Write about your answer to Exercise 6 or invent an experience.

b Answer the questions in your anecdote.

- When did it happen?
- What happened that made you want to stand up for yourself?
- How did you feel?
- Was your reaction immediate or did it come later?
- What did you do next, exactly?
- How did the other person/people react?
- How did you feel in the end?

c Choose time phrases from this lesson that will help you to explain the sequence of events.

Write

8 a Write the first draft of your anecdote. Work in pairs and swap anecdotes. Read each other's work and answer the questions. Write suggestions for improvement.

- Is the sequence of events clear?
- Are there phrases to show the timing and sequence of events?
- Are there examples of the past perfect?
- Is there vocabulary to show how the writer felt?
- Is it entertaining to read?

b Read the suggestions on your anecdote and write a second draft.

