

Idioms with *laugh*, *cry* and *tears*

1 Work in pairs. Use at least five of the idioms and six of the story elements to invent a story.

Idioms

be in floods of tears

be bored to tears

burst into tears

a shoulder to cry on

be close to tears

cry your eyes out

it's no laughing matter

have the last laugh

laugh your head off

burst out laughing

Story elements

Suddenly,

a young woman, waiting for her bus

a little boy appeared

'He stole my bag!'

'Wait for me!'

strange music

an old woman driving a truck

in the distance

'I saw it with my own eyes!'

Finally,

'Can I help you?'

The next day,

Just when they thought they were going to be OK,

'I can't remember'

'She was going to kidnap me!'

2 Compare your story with another pair of students'. Which do you like best?

Instructions

You will need: one worksheet per pair

- Divide students into pairs and give one worksheet to each pair.
- Explain to students that they need to use at least five of the idioms from the top half of the page and at least six of the story elements from the bottom half of the page, and invent a story.
- Tell students that they will tell their story to another pair afterwards, so they should make notes on how to tell it.
- Monitor and help with ideas and vocabulary, writing any new words/phrases on the board, and make sure students are using the idioms appropriately.
- When they are ready, put pairs together in groups of four. Students take it in turns to tell their stories, then choose which they like the best.
- As feedback, ask one or two pairs to tell their stories to the class.