

Remembering . . .

A Speaking Activity

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

In this class discussion activity, students will review questions and statements in the simple past tense as they discuss their memories of the first and last times they did various things. It can be used as a supplement to the simple past exercises on page 87 of *Spectrum* Book Two, particularly Exercise 8.

Before you begin the activity, cut up the following list of topics and put the slips of paper into a box.

Warm the class up by asking a few students, one by one, about the last time they went to a concert. Ask them a series of questions, such as: “What was the name of the musician or band in the concert?”; “Was it a rock concert?”; “How did you like the concert?,” or “How long was the concert?” Give students enough time to remember, but keep the discussion going at a quick pace. If students seem to be having a hard time responding, help them by making comments about the last time you went to a concert.

Explain that students will pick topics from the box and ask and answer questions about the topics they pick. Tell them not to worry if they can’t remember anything related to a particular topic. This activity is only meant to encourage discussion. If students can’t remember or prefer not to talk about the topic they choose, they can choose another topic from the box.

Once the students understand the question and answer process for this activity, divide them into pairs. Let the first pair choose a topic from the box. This pair will then take turns asking each other about the “first or last time they . . .” Give each pair a couple of minutes to have discussions about the topic they have chosen, prompting them as needed. Then move on to the other pairs until all the pairs have had a chance to speak.

Variation:

If you feel that your students are advanced enough to discuss the topics without your supervision, do not use the box or monitor the discussion. Instead, make enough copies of the following list of topics for each pair of students and allow the pairs to select and discuss topics on their own.

**Remembering...
List of Topics**

The last book you read.	The last time you ate at a restaurant.	The last movie you saw.
The first time you drove a car.	Your first day of school.	The first time you went on vacation.
The last time you rode a bike.	The last time you bought something.	The last time you were surprised.
The first time you saw your husband / wife / boyfriend / girlfriend.	The first time you flew in an airplane.	The last class you went to.
The first time you failed a test or exam.	The last party you went to.	The last game you played.
The first pet you had.	The first job you had.	The first teacher you had.
The last time you rode the bus.	The last CD / tape you bought.	The first time you visited a foreign country.