UPPER INTERMEDIATE UNIT 3

a story

speak**out** WRITING TIP

A story should have a clear structure: a beginning, a middle and an end. It should also include adverbs of manner to make the narrative richer, and time markers to make it clear in what order the events happen. Ideally, it should have a conclusion that is connected to the introduction.

1A Read the title and the first paragraph of the story. What do you think it will be about?

B Put the events of the story in the correct order.
  a) slip and fall
  b) climb up waterfall
  c) go to waterfall
  d) rescued by children
  e) watch children playing in waterfall
  f) hit head

2 Read the complete story quickly. Did you guess the order of events correctly?

When in Rome …

They say 'When in Rome do as the Romans do', but I don't think that it's necessarily a good idea …

A few years ago, I was on holiday in Fiji with my girlfriend. We were camping next to the beach and spent most days lazily reading in the sun. Occasionally, we slowly walked along the coast to the local supermarket to get food and supplies. Naturally, after a week of sunbathing and reading, we started to get a bit bored and so we asked the campsite owner if there were any interesting places to visit. He told us that on the other side of the island there was a waterfall with some pools and natural slides. He said that a lot of local people went there to swim in the cool water and escape from the heat.

When we arrived, we saw some children who were sliding down the rocks very quickly and noisily landing in the pool below. We watched for a while and it looked like fun, so I decided to try it myself. I climbed up the rocks at the side of the waterfall and looked over the edge; it was a long way down! But I thought to myself, if small children can do it then so can I! Suddenly, I slipped and fell, and hit my head hard on a rock under the water.

I don't really remember anything until much later, but my girlfriend told me that I was unconscious when I landed in the pool, and had to be rescued by the children! Obviously, we didn't go back to the waterfall!

In my opinion, when in Rome, don't do as the Romans do!

3 Look at paragraphs 2 and 3. Which tense is used most of the time? Why?

4 Find adverbs in the story which mean:
  1 Not at a fast speed _____
  2 The writer thinks something is understood or evident _____
  3 At once _____
  4 The writer thinks something is (not) inevitable _____
  5 At a high volume _____
  6 In a way which doesn't involve much activity _____
  7 The writer thinks something is normal _____

5 Find nine adverbs in the story and put them in the correct category.
  manner: _____
  attitude: _____
  time/frequency: _____

6 Use the adverbs in the box to complete the text below.

| occasionally luckily quickly suddenly |
| carefully naturally immediately slowly |

When I arrived back at the campsite I [1]_____ went to the owner and told him what had happened. [2]_____, he called a doctor. The doctor came [3]_____. He examined me [4]_____ and [5]_____. He [6]_____ asked me questions.
[7]_____, he started laughing and shook my hand. '[8]_____, there's nothing wrong with you,' he said. I was very relieved.

7 Choose a story that illustrates or disproves a popular saying (120–200 words). Here are some suggestions for sayings. You may want to use one of them as the basis for your story.
Pride comes before a fall.
Once bitten, twice shy.
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Plan your writing
- Think about the structure of your story. Write an introduction referring to the saying. Set the scene and develop the story. End the story and write a conclusion that refers back to the introduction.

Check your writing
- Is most of your story in the past simple?
- Have you used adverbs of manner, adverbs to describe attitude and adverbs to describe time?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?