

Expect the Unexpected

⚡ Duration: 1 hour

⚡ B1+/B2 Level

⚡ Group lesson

⚡ Age: teenagers and adults

⚡ Necessary background

The students are familiar with the Third Conditional

⚡ Lesson goals

Can summarise and give their opinion about a short story, article, talk, discussion interview, or documentary.

Can describe events, real or imagined.

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Warm-up

Exercise 1: Answer the following questions:

1. What was the most surprising thing that has ever happened to you?
2. Do you believe that everything happens for a reason, even if it's unexpected?
Or do things happen randomly?
3. What advice would you give to someone who is dealing with an unexpected situation?

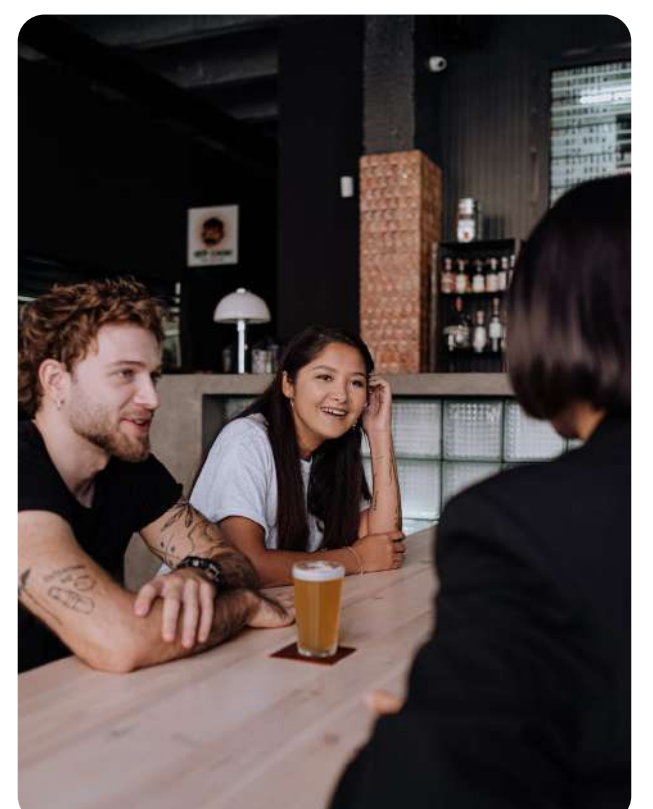
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Reading

Exercise 2: Three best friends Sarah, Peter and Emma met up for brunch on Sunday. Each of them is telling a story that happened to them during the week. What do these stories have in common?

 Sarah

On Monday, I received an email from a friend inviting me to a concert on Friday night. I had never heard of the band, but my friend promised it would be a great show. On Friday evening, I got dressed up and headed out to meet my friend at the venue. The concert was held in a small club downtown, and when we arrived, there was already a big crowd waiting outside. After about half an hour, we finally made it inside and found ourselves standing near the front of the stage. The band came on, and they were amazing! The music was loud and energetic, and the crowd was really into it. But then, something unexpected happened. In the middle of one of their songs, the lead singer suddenly stopped singing and looked out into the audience.



 **Peter**

This week, my dog and I were walking in the park when we stumbled upon an old, abandoned building. It looked like it had been empty for years, but the door was slightly open, so we decided to take a peek inside.

As soon as we stepped in, we felt a chill run down our spines. The air was musty and damp, and the floorboards creaked under our feet. My dog, Max, seemed to sense something was wrong and started growling softly. We explored the first few rooms, finding nothing but dust and cobwebs, but then we heard a strange noise coming from one of the back rooms. We cautiously made our way towards the room, heartbeats racing. When we opened the door, we were met with a sight that left us both stunned.

 **Emma**

Last week, my boyfriend and I were enjoying a quiet evening at home. We had just finished dinner and were settling in for the night when we heard a loud noise coming from outside. We looked out the window and saw that our neighbour's dog had gotten loose and was running around in our yard.

We quickly put on our shoes and went outside to try to catch the dog. It was a big, energetic Labrador and it was running all over the place. We chased after it, but it was too fast. We were starting to get frustrated when suddenly, the dog stopped and ran towards us, barking loudly. We were confused at first, but then we saw what the dog had been trying to tell us.

Exercise 3: Match each situation with the correct person: Emma, Sarah or Peter.

Emma

_____ was not able to catch the dog that was barking and running around the yard.

Sarah

_____ danced and sang along with the music with a friend.

Peter

_____ found something unexpected when they opened the door to the back room.

_____ had a great time at the concert.

_____ found nothing but dust and cobwebs in the first few rooms.

_____ felt a chill run down their spine.

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Speaking

Exercise 4: In pairs, think of the craziest ending of each story, make notes. Share your ideas with the class.

Exercise 5: The teacher will give you a card with the ending of one of the stories.

- Read it and be ready to retell it to the rest of the group.
- Listen to the endings of the other stories.
- Which ending do you like the most? Which ending surprised you the most? Why?

Exercise 6: Continue the following sentences. Then, give 3 more examples of what could have happened if the characters in the stories (with all the suggested endings) had made different decisions. Use the third conditional.

If they hadn't tried to understand why the dog was barking and running, their house would've...

If she'd got scared and run away, she wouldn't have...

If he hadn't called the authorities to report our discovery, he would've...

Additional exercise

Write your opinion about situations with unexpected endings, support it with 1-2 examples from your personal experience

Here are some example answers:

Samantha: "I love situations with unexpected endings! One time, I was lost in the city and just took random turns until I stumbled upon this amazing restaurant. It ended up being one of the best meals I've ever had!"

John: "I gotta say, I hate unexpected endings. They stress me out. Once, I thought I aced a job interview but ended up not getting the job. I was devastated."

Alice: "I don't know how I feel about unexpected endings. On one hand, they can be exciting. On the other hand, they can be disappointing. Like, I once went on a blind date that I thought was going great until my date revealed some really problematic views."

Chris: "Unexpected endings? Ugh, they make my stomach drop. Once, I was on a rollercoaster that unexpectedly stopped and left us hanging upside down for what felt like hours. I was so scared and anxious, it ruined my whole day."



Correct answers and teaching tips

Exercise 1: Answer the following questions:

Created in the “Discussion questions” tool

Exercise 2: Three best friends Sarah, Peter and Emma met up for brunch on Sunday. Each of them is telling a story that happened to them during the week. What do these stories have in common?

Created in the “Create a text” tool

Exercise 3: Match each situation with the correct person: Emma, Sarah or Peter.

Created in the “Create True/False statements” tool

Correct answers:

Emma, Sarah, Peter, Sarah, Peter, Peter

Exercise 5: The teacher will give you a card with the ending of one of the stories.



There are 6 endings - two endings for each story. If you have more than 6 students, you can ask them to work in pairs.

You can find the endings in the “Printable activities” section.

Printable activities

Story endings:



Sarah

He pointed straight at me and said, "Hey, you! Come up here and sing with us!"

I couldn't believe it! I froze for a moment, unsure if he was talking to me or someone else. But then my friend pushed me forward, urging me to go up on stage. I climbed up, feeling nervous and excited at the same time. The band handed me a microphone, and before I knew it, I was singing along with them in front of the entire audience. It was an incredible experience, and I felt like a rockstar for those few minutes.

After the song ended, the band thanked me and I stepped off the stage, grinning from ear to ear. My friend and I stayed until the end of the concert, and as we left the club, we talked about how amazing the night had been. I never would have expected to end up on stage with a band I had never heard of, but it was definitely a night to remember.

I climbed up onto the stage and started singing with the band. After the show, the lead singer invited me to join the band as their new vocalist. The lead singer explained to me that they had been searching for a new vocalist for months, but none of the auditionees had the right voice or chemistry with the band. However, when they heard me singing in the audience, they knew that I was the missing piece that they had been looking for.

At first, I was a little hesitant about joining the band, but all the members were so friendly and welcoming that I felt right at home. They showed me around their rehearsal space. Next week I'm going to start practising with the band every day.



Peter

There, in the middle of the room, sat a group of people dressed in old-fashioned clothing, playing cards and smoking pipes. They looked up at us in surprise, and we stared back in disbelief.

One of the men stood up and approached us. He explained that they were a historical reenactment group, and they had rented the building for the weekend to recreate life in the 1800s. They had forgotten to lock the door and didn't expect anyone to come in. We chatted with them for a while, fascinated by their dedication to history, before saying our goodbyes and leaving the building.

As we walked away, I couldn't help but feel amazed at the unexpected turn of events. Max wagged his tail happily, content after his exciting adventure. It just goes to show that you never know what you might find when you explore the world around you.

I couldn't believe my eyes! The room was filled with treasure - piles of gold coins and ancient artifacts.

As I looked closer at the treasure, I noticed that some of the artifacts were from ancient civilizations that I had only read about in history books. There were clay pots that had intricate designs on them, and old scrolls that looked like they were written in a language I couldn't understand. I wondered how these items had ended up in this abandoned building, and who they had belonged to before.

I didn't know what to do. Eventually, I decided to leave it there and call the authorities to report our discovery. I knew that doing the right thing was more important than keeping the treasure for myself.

Printable activities



Emma

There was a small fire burning in our backyard, right next to our house. We hadn't even noticed it before because it was hidden behind some bushes. We immediately called the fire department and they arrived quickly to put out the fire.

After everything was under control, we realised how lucky we had been. If it hadn't been for our neighbour's dog, we might not have noticed the fire until it was too late. We thanked the dog and our neighbour for their help and made sure to give the dog a treat for being such a hero. It was definitely an unexpected ending to our quiet evening at home, but we were grateful for the excitement and the happy ending.

The dog led us to a small kitten that was stuck in a tree. To rescue the kitten, we had to climb the tree and carefully grab the kitten. The branches were thin, so we had to be very careful not to hurt the kitten or ourselves. The dog was barking and encouraging us to go up the tree.

Once we had the kitten in our hands, we carefully climbed down and took it to the vet where we found out that it didn't have a home. We decided to adopt the kitten and give it a loving home. We named the kitten Lucky. It's a very playful and affectionate pet. Lucky plays with the dog sometimes in our yard.
