

Activity

While listening to the extract for the first time, and before reading the commentary, try to identify which of the features 5-8 you think occur in these stories.

Speakers and setting

- <S 01> male (48)
- <S 02> female (42)
- <S 03> male (47)
- <S 04> male (47)

<S 01> and <S 02> are brother and sister. <S 02> and <S 03> are wife and husband. <S 04> is an old childhood friend of <S 01> and <S 02>. The extract is recorded at <S 02> and <S 03>'s home. The speakers are reminiscing about dangerous childhood pranks.

Transcript

- 1 <S 01> Anyway
- 2 <S 02> So anyway *discourse markers*
- 3 <S 01> So anyway
- 4 <S 03> So anyway erm my cousin Mervin that was in the REME er got me a 38
- 5 <S 01> Gun
- 6 <S 03> Wesson, Smith and Wesson special and Benny's, no it wasn't it was
- 7 Rick Holman's shed and Benny, Brian Beddingfields knew his dad had
- 8 some ammunition from the war and he found it and they were 38s
- 9 so we erm took it over the marshes and shot a couple of rounds off
- 10 that was great and then one day we were in, up Prospect Road near
- 11 the scout hut in a shed in a pre, erm Rick Holman's shed so there was
- 12 four of us in this sort of [*quite a bit*] <S 01> mm] eight by six shed ... and
- 13 we were playing about with the thing and and we messed about with
- 14 it and did the usu, you know and sort of said oh we'll put a cross in it
- 15 make a dum-dum of it and fired it in the shed at at the bit of wood
- 16 [*quite a bit*] <S 02> [laughs]] and this bullet went round the shed about three
- 17 times and we all just froze this bullet went round and round and
- 18 round [laughs] was absolutely outrageous we had no concept of
- 19 what could have happened *Evaluation*
- 20 <S 04> Yeah
- 21 <S 01> God
- 22 <S 02> Dear God *Dear God*

- 23 <S 01> Remember that kid
- 24 <S 03> And then the other one *right* the other one
- 25 <S 04> You said he was in the REME
- 26 <S 03> Yeah *boundary*
- 27 <S 04> What's that
- 28 <S 03> Royal Engin, oh
- 29 <S 01> Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- 30 <S 03> Engineers
- 31 I'm sorry, the other thing that we used to do that Bernard
- 32 mentioned when I was a little kid, before erm the sea-front was all
- 33 different it was just open [*quite a bit*] <S 01> mm] we used to cycle down
- 34 especially on foggy days was the best [*quite a bit*] <S 01> mm] cycle straight
- 35 down Canute Road and straight off the prom into the sea because
- 36 we erm we'd make sure the tide was sort of in and, but you had to
- 37 get rid of your bike in mid-air
- 38 <S 02> But didn't you do that dreadful thing to that boy
- 39 <S 03> Oh yeah
- 40 <S 02> Where you were all kneeling down as if to say come in
- 41 <S 03> It's about
- 42 an eight or ten foot dive in [*quite a bit*] <S 01> yeah] and you could dive at high
- 43 tide and Guss Hughes came along one day and we were always
- 44 taking the Mickey out of him he was you know he was one of these
- 45 the lads that always got taken, so we all knelt down [*quite a bit*] <S 01>
- 46 [laughs] Patsy] with the water up to about there he stood on the
- 47 top and said is it okay to dive we said yes but of course it was only
- 48 knee-deep and he dived [*quite a bit*] <S 04> [laughs]] and he stuck and he just
- 49 went crunch
- 50 <S 02> Somebody actually broke their neck [*quite a bit*] <S 01> That sounds like] down
- 51 there didn't they
- 52 <S 03> Oh that yeah [*quite a bit*] <S 02> yeah I suppose] that's since they put the new
- 53 brick part of it though but basically you know how we didn't kill each
- 54 other and all things like that I don't *it's incredible*

Line-by-line commentary

ll. 1-4 Anyway occurs four times, here used in a rather jokey way. The speakers are returning to their story-telling after a brief interruption. *Anyway* is a common DISCOURSE MARKER in English, used to indicate a boundary in the talk, either, as here, when getting back to an interrupted topic, or, often, to indicate that