

4 When I Was a Kid

1 Synopsis

A group of friends and co-workers are spending an evening together. They talk about their childhood memories. One remembers arriving in New York with his family when he was eight years old. It was Thanksgiving and his father took him to see a parade. Another remembers that her aunt would always take her to see a Broadway show during the holidays. One friend shows a video of her favorite memories of New York at Christmas time. These include ice skating in Central Park, Santa Claus, the decorations, the store windows, the tree at Rockefeller Center; and a hansom cab ride.

Length of video: 3:34min

2 Target Language

Grammar: *used to / would* + infinitive

Vocabulary: holidays and festivals

Language points: describing events and feelings

3 Procedural Notes

A Before you watch

As a class. Read aloud the headings in the chart and check comprehension. Point out that *costumes* means "festival clothes." On the board, brainstorm vocabulary relating to holidays and festivals, e.g., parades, floats, fireworks, balloons, shows, bands, crowds, lights. Focus on the example text underneath the headings. Write on the board the structures *used to / would* + infinitive (without *to*). Explain that we use these to describe past habits that we no longer do.

Individuals. Have students write notes about their childhood holiday memories. Allow them to use dictionaries, and circulate to help, if necessary.

In groups. Have students share their memories in small groups. Encourage them to use *used to / would* + infinitive, and ask questions about each other's experiences. You may find it useful to elicit the question forms of *used to / would* to help students. Have some students report back to the class.

B While you watch

1 Individuals. Have students read the sentences, and check comprehension. Play the first section of the video, stopping at [01:59] before Linda shows her Christmas video diary, while students complete the exercise. Check answers.

Answer key:

1 vegetarian 2 Colombia 3 Thanksgiving
4 eight 5 parade 6 scared 7 cats

If necessary, explain that Thanksgiving is a day of celebration in the United States and Canada. It takes place on the fourth Thursday of November in the U.S., and on the second Monday of October in Canada. It is a day to show gratitude for the good things in life and traditionally involves a family feast.

2 Individuals. Have students read the sentences, and check that they understand them. Explain that a *hansom cab* is a horse-drawn two-wheeled covered taxi, although in modern times, they are used for entertainment, not transportation. Play the second section of the video, from [01:59 to the end], while students complete the exercise.

In pairs. Have students compare answers in pairs, then check answers as a class.

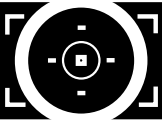
Answer key:

1 Skating in Central Park.
2 Seeing Santa Claus.
3 Watching a show at Radio City Music Hall.
4 Watching breakdancers.
5 Admiring the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center.
6 Taking a hansom cab ride.

C After you watch

Individuals. Tell students that they are going to write the script for a short video diary about a holiday or festival from their country that they think foreigners would enjoy. Brainstorm the type of information they should include (the name of the holiday or festival; when it takes place; how it is celebrated; what happens, etc.). Have students work alone to write their scripts. Circulate while they are working to help if necessary.

In pairs. After seven to eight minutes, have students read aloud their scripts in pairs. Circulate while they are working and note down any common errors. Then, go over these errors on the board with the whole class.



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Suggested answer:

In the U.S., a popular holiday with foreigners is Halloween. On this night, October 31, children dress up in scary costumes. They visit houses in their neighborhood, and their neighbors give them candy. Many people decorate their houses in a scary way, with ghosts, black cats, and witches. Adults also go to Halloween costume parties. There are contests for the scariest, funniest, or most original costumes.

Individuals. Have students work alone to complete the exercise. Then, have some students read aloud their sentences to check answers.

Answer key:

1 It was 2 I was 3 I was 4 It was 5 It was 6 I was

D Language points

As a class. Have some students read aloud the adjectives in brackets, then have students translate them. Point out that in English, adjectives which end in *-ed* often describe how people feel. Adjectives which end in *-ing* often describe the thing that makes you feel like this, e.g., *excited* – *exciting*.

E Your viewpoint

In groups. Have some students read the questions aloud and check that everybody understands them. Have students work in small groups and have them discuss the questions. While groups are working, circulate and help with vocabulary. Finish off with a class discussion about holidays and festivals.

4 Video Script

Sally:	Octavio, you were great on the show today.		they came into the audience, and one of them jumped right at me. I almost wet my pants!
Octavio:	Really? I was so nervous.	Kirstie:	Holidays are the best in New York. We should do a whole <i>Inside Out</i> show on that, Jason.
Linda:	You were fine, honey.	Jason:	Yeah, the decorations, the store windows ...
Kirstie:	Who wants some more pizza?	Octavio:	Linda, show them your Christmas video.
Jason:	I'll have some.	Linda:	I don't think anyone wants to see that.
Kirstie:	Big surprise! Anchovies or pepperoni?	Everybody:	Come on!
Jason:	Did you get any vegetarian?	Linda:	Well, if you insist.
Kirstie:	Mushrooms and broccoli?	Sally:	Yeah.
Jason:	Great.	Linda:	These are some of my favorite memories. Skating in Central Park ...
Sally:	Octavio, where are you from?	Sally:	That's where I learned to skate. I must have been six. I remember falling more than skating!
Octavio:	Colombia. My father brought us here when I was eight. My first day in New York was Thanksgiving. Can you believe it? My father took my sister and me to the Macy's parade and this started a tradition. We used to go every year. I was always so blown away. My father would lift me on his shoulders so I could see everything – the bands, the crowds, those gigantic balloons flying down Central Park West, Popeye, Snoopy ... I didn't know whether to cheer or to run. I was always so thrilled, and sometimes so scared I wouldn't let go of his hair. He hated that. But I was so excited.	Linda:	Santa Claus ... And every kid's dreamland, Radio City Music Hall.
Linda:	Yeah, parades, holidays, they're still great.	Kirstie:	All those decorations.
Sally:	I remember every Christmas my Aunt Evelyn would take me to see a Broadway show. One year, we went to see <i>Cats</i> . Talk about exciting. The lights, scenery, all these cats purring and scratching. Then	Jason:	All those Rockettes.
		Kirstie:	I was waiting for that.
		Jason:	What?
		Linda:	Those breakdancers were incredible. Remember, honey?
		Octavio:	Yeah. I'm still dizzy. And the tree at Rockefeller Center. Year after year, it just gets more beautiful.
		Linda:	There's St. Patrick's Cathedral. And what would Christmas in New York be without a hansom cab ride? And that's the end.