

The Washroom Story



1. **The loo, the ladies', the John, the washroom...** All the four words mean the same. Do you know what?
2. **When was the last**

time you...(pairs)

- ... **struck up** (started) a conversation with a stranger and what was it about? Do you often strike up conversations with strangers?
 - ... saw someone extremely **weird** (odd, strange)? What was **so weird about** the person? What was he or she doing when you saw them?
 - ... **felt flustered** (bewildered and confused)? What had happened? Do you still feel flustered about it?
 - (**fast finishers**) Think about the last time you traveled. Did you feel comfortable? If not -why not? Did any stranger try to strike up a conversation with you? Did you reply readily? Did you see anyone/anything weird while travelling? Did anything flustering happen to you during the journey?
2. You're about to read a story about **a traveler, a washroom, a stranger, and a cellphone**. Can you think of the connection? With a partner, create a 4-sentence micro - story involving all the 4 keywords.
 3. **"Damn you cell phones... You win this round!"** This is the very last line of the story. Does it agree with your mini-stories? If not - can you re-consider the connection between the key ideas?
 4. **Read the real story now** - what happened? Do you think it's a joke (an invented funny story) or an anecdote (a real incident)? Could this have happened to you? If this happened to you, how would you feel?

5. **Don't you enjoy parties where there is a witty storyteller?** Are you more into telling jokes or listening to others' stories? How about practicing your storyteller's skills to be popular in any company? On the 4 different-coloured slips given to you by the teacher, write down your suggestions for the following (be inventive!):

(the **red** slip) - the main character (e.g., your name, or a celebrity), (the **blue** slip) - a public place and a particular place there (e.g., a trendy boutique, the fitting room), (the **green** slip) - the second character (a shop assistant, a police man...)(the **yellow** slip) - a gadget (a juicer, an i-phone...) Now, collect all slips and mix them up. Pick 4 random slips - 1 of each colour - and **invent your own story** based on the four keywords. Have a storytelling party...

When I was leaving Montreal, I decided to stop at one of those rest areas on the side of the road.

I go into the washroom. The first stall is taken, so I go into the second stall. I had just sat down when I heard a voice from the other stall...

- Hi there, how is it going?

I'm thinking to myself, what the hell? Okay, I am not the type to strike up conversations with strangers in the loos on the side of the road. I didn't know what to say, so finally I say:

-Not bad...

Then the voice says:

- So, what are you doing?

I am starting to find this a bit weird and very uncomfortable, but I finally reply with:

- Well, I'm going back east...

Then I hear the person, all flustered, say:

- Look, I'll call you back honey--every time I ask you a question this idiot in the next stall keeps answering me!

...A harsh silence fell through the washroom. I gotta tell you I was relieved. But never before had I felt so stupid! Damn you cell phones... You win this round.