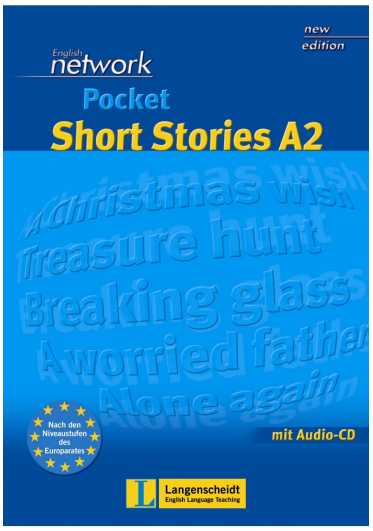

Story 18: The porcelain baby

Teacher's Notes

Here's a lesson, based on the story *The porcelain baby* on page 42 of **Network's Pocket Short Stories A2**. (ISBN 978-3-526-50662-1). This provides material for approximately 60 minutes.

1 Introduction (5-10 mins) Tell the class that they're going to read a story about someone who sells something on eBay. Ask what eBay is (**an Internet auction site**) and if anyone has ever bought or sold anything on eBay.

2 eBay (10+ mins) Elicit the simplified steps you have to go through to sell something on eBay by asking these eBay FAQs (frequently asked questions). If you have a weaker class, copy the FAQs and answers – one for each pair of students. Cut up the questions and answers and they match them.

Q: How do I advertise an item on eBay?
A: Take a photo of the item you want to sell and advertise it under the correct category heading. Then decide on a starting price.
Q: What kinds of things can you sell on eBay?
A: Almost anything. There are lots of categories – books, electrical items, clothes, CDs, furniture, baby things, kitchen items, computers, souvenirs – everything!
Q: How do I know that the eBayers will pay for the item?
A: You don't post the item before you receive payment. And you can read the eBayer's feedback which he has got from other eBay auctions.
Q: I don't want my name and bank details on the Internet – is it safe?
A: You don't give your real name, you have a user name. And only the winning bidder gets your bank details so he can transfer the money into your bank account.

3 The porcelain baby (10-15 mins)
Write the names: *Margaret, Paul* and *Hayley* on the board. Ask the class to listen to the story and find out **a)** what the relationship is between the three people **b)** what Margaret thinks about Hayley.
Read out the story *The porcelain baby* on page 42 of *Network Pocket Short Stories A2* – or play the story to them (track 14 on the *Short Stories* CD) and ask the two questions. Then give the class five minutes to read the story themselves, and point out that there are words plus translations under the story to help them.

4 In your own words (10 mins)
Ask basic comprehension questions:
What present did Margaret give to Hayley? - How much did she pay for it? - Why did she choose a porcelain baby? - Hayley said the ornament fell off the shelf and now it was broken. So what did Margaret do? - What was the seller's name? - Who was bidding against Margaret? - How much did Margaret pay for the eBay ornament? - What was Cowgirl's real identity? - And who was Tiger?

5 User names (5 mins)
Ask the class what the user names were in the story (**Cowgirl** and **Tiger**). Give them two or three minutes to think of a password which they would use themselves.

6 Selling an item (15 mins)
Ask students to think of something which they have at home but don't need any more. They should write an ad for eBay. Help them by writing the following headings on the board:
BOARD: User name: Category: Starting price:
Description: (used, new, (not) in working order, size, colour, etc.)

Display the ads – on desks or on the wall - and give students time to walk round and read them. (If anyone actually wants to make a bid, they can write a bid on a separate piece of paper and put it next to the ad!)

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