



True Stories

4

Sample pages

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UNIT 1



1 PRE-READING

Think about these questions. Discuss your answers with your classmates.

1. Look at the title of the story. What does *love at first sight* mean?
2. Do you believe people can fall in love “at first sight”?
3. Do you know anyone who fell in love at first sight? Tell the class the story.

Love at First Sight

When Pamela Claypole was 56 years old, her whole life changed. She was outside working in her garden on a Saturday morning when suddenly she felt dizzy. That's all she remembers. Neighbors found her lying on the ground, unconscious. At a nearby hospital, doctors made their diagnosis: Pamela had had a stroke. She couldn't move the left side of her body, and she couldn't see, hear, or speak. Gradually, she got better. In a few months, she was able to use the left side of her body again, and she was able to hear and speak. But she still couldn't see. Her doctors told her she might be blind for the rest of her life.

Pamela came home from the hospital and began learning to live without her sight. It wasn't easy. Pamela was single, and she lived alone. There were days when she wished she hadn't survived the stroke. But as time went on, she began to adjust. She learned to take care of herself—to cook, to clean, to shop. There were just a few things she couldn't do. She couldn't fix things in her house, for example. When something broke, her friends had to help her.

One morning about three years after her stroke, Pamela was washing dishes and realized that the water wasn't going down the drain in her kitchen sink. It was probably clogged. "Call Mitch," her friends told her. Mitch was the local handyman. He fixed things for people and helped them with jobs around the house. He was middle-aged and single, and he loved his work.

Pamela called Mitch. "I hear you're a pretty good plumber," she said. "I've got a problem with my kitchen sink. Can you come over?"

"I'll be right there," Mitch told her. He fixed the sink in just a few minutes. "All done," he said.

"Thank you. How much do I owe you?" Pamela asked.

"Nothing," Mitch said. "But a cup of tea would be nice."

Pamela made some tea, and she and Mitch sat at her kitchen table and talked. He told her he would be happy to help her anytime.

Over the next two years, Mitch came to Pamela's house often to fix something or to

work with her in the garden. He never accepted a penny from Pamela for the work he did; he said a cup of tea and a little conversation were payment enough. The truth was that Mitch was in love with Pamela. He never told her, though. Mitch was not a handsome man. "If she could see me," he thought, "she wouldn't love me."

One morning Pamela woke up early. She turned her head on the pillow and saw the hands on the alarm clock next to her bed: 5:30 a.m. She could see! She ran to the front door of her house and looked outside. She could see the flowers, the trees, the houses across the street. She cried with happiness. Then she went to the phone and called her best friend, Mitch.

"Hello, Mitch," she said. "It's an emergency! Come quick!"

Mitch thought about Pamela's phone call as he threw on some clothes. What kind of emergency could there be at 5:30 in the morning? Was there water everywhere? Was someone trying to break into her house? He ran the half mile to Pamela's house.

Pamela opened the front door. "Pam, are you okay?" Mitch said. Pamela looked at him and smiled. "Your eyes are brown," she said.

"What?" he asked.

"Your eyes are brown," she repeated.

"You can see?"

"Yes!" Pamela said and threw her arms around Mitch. Mitch was happy for Pamela, and he was also happy for himself. "She can see me, and she still likes me," he thought.

A few weeks later, Mitch asked Pamela to marry him, and she said yes. He told her that he had loved her from the first moment he saw her, when he came to fix her sink.

"Why didn't you ever tell me?" Pamela asked him.

"I thought you wouldn't want me because I'm not handsome," Mitch said.

"I don't care what you look like," Pamela told Mitch. "I've loved you for years."

"Well, why didn't you tell me?" he asked.

"I thought you wouldn't want me," she answered, "because I was blind."

2 VOCABULARY

LOOKING AT THE STORY

Complete the sentences with the words below.

accepted	dizzy	nearby	stroke
adjust	handyman	owe	threw on some clothes
clogged	might	sight	unconscious
come over			

1. Pamela was working in her garden when suddenly it seemed that everything was going around and around. She felt dizzy.
2. When neighbors found Pamela, her eyes were closed and she was lying on the ground. They couldn't wake her up. She was _____.
3. Neighbors took Pamela to a _____ hospital. It was only a mile from her house.
4. Pamela couldn't move the left side of her body, and she couldn't hear, speak, or see. She had had a _____.
5. Pamela asked her doctors, "Will I see again?" They said, "We're not sure." They told her she _____ be blind for the rest of her life.
6. When Pamela came home from the hospital, she couldn't see. It was difficult to live without her _____.
7. Pamela had to change the ways she did things. She had to learn new ways of cleaning, cooking, and shopping. She had to _____ to being blind.
8. Mitch fixed things for people and helped them with small jobs around the house. He was a _____.
9. Pamela wanted Mitch to come to her house to fix the sink. So she called him and asked, "Can you _____?"
10. The water wasn't going down in the sink because there was something in the drain. The drain was _____.
11. Pamela wanted to know the cost after Mitch fixed her sink. "How much do I _____ you?" she asked.
12. Mitch didn't take any money for his work. He never _____ a penny.
13. Pamela called Mitch and said, "It's an emergency! Come quick!" Mitch didn't take time to dress carefully. He just _____ and ran to Pamela's house.

LOOKING AT A NEW CONTEXT

A Read these sentences. If the sentence is true for you, check (✓) YES. If it is not true for you, check (✓) NO. Explain your YES answers. Write your explanations on the lines. Here, for example, is what one student wrote about a YES sentence.

	YES	NO
Someone owes me money.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>My brother owes me \$200.</i>		
1. I have been unconscious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I need a handyman to do some work in my home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I know someone who had a stroke.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Sometimes I just throw on some clothes and don't take time to dress carefully.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. This year I had to adjust to something new.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I owe someone some money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Someone owes me money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. A lot of my relatives live nearby.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Sometimes I do not accept money for the work I do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I know how to fix a clogged drain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Sometimes I feel dizzy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B Share your YES answers in a small group.

3 COMPREHENSION/READING SKILLS

FORMING MENTAL IMAGES AS YOU READ

Do you see pictures in your mind as you read? Look at these pictures. Find the sentence in the story that goes with each picture. Copy the sentence on the lines.



1. *Neighbors found her lying on the ground, unconscious.*



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6.



7.



8.



9.

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Pamela fell to the ground <u> c </u> | a. because she was single and lived alone. |
| 2. It was not easy for Pamela to adjust to being blind _____ | b. because he wasn't handsome. |
| 3. Pamela called Mitch _____ | c. because she had had a stroke. |
| 4. Mitch thought Pamela wouldn't love him _____ | d. because she was blind. |
| 5. Pamela thought Mitch wouldn't love her _____ | e. because the drain in her sink was clogged. |

4 DISCUSSION

Mitch thought Pamela wouldn't love him because he wasn't handsome. How important is it to be handsome or beautiful?

A Work as a class to make a list of qualities that are important when you are looking for a husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Your teacher will write your list on the board. For example:

good-looking
honest
hardworking

B Choose two qualities that are very important to you and two that are not important. Write those qualities in the chart below. Then compare your answers with a classmate's.

Very Important	Not Important

C Form groups with only men or only women in them. The women's groups make a list of the four qualities they think are most important when choosing a husband, and the men's groups make a list of the four qualities they think are most important when choosing a wife.

Four Most Important Qualities When Choosing a Wife / Husband
1.
2.
3.
4.

D Each group shares its list with the whole class. How different are the men's and women's lists?

E Discuss the importance of physical appearance in the United States. In small groups, read the following statements. Check (✓) *TRUE* if you think the statement is true and *FALSE* if you think the statement is false. Report your group's answers to the whole class.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. In political elections, the better-looking candidate usually wins.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. In presidential elections, the taller candidate usually wins.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Tall people make more money than short people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Attractive people make more money than unattractive people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Teachers think attractive students are smarter than unattractive students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. People usually marry people who are as good-looking as they are.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Babies look at the faces of attractive people longer than they look at the faces of unattractive people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Attractive people who have a problem get more help than unattractive people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

F Now check the Key on page 138 to see if you guessed correctly.

5 WRITING

After Mitch fixed Pamela's sink, Pamela made some tea and they sat at her kitchen table and talked.

A What do men and women talk about when they're getting to know each other? Work as a class to make three lists. Your teacher will write your lists on the board.

1. Topics that men talk about when they are with other men
2. Topics that women talk about when they are with other women
3. Topics for a man and woman to talk about when they are together

B Work with a partner and choose one of the following writing activities.

1. Write a conversation between a man and woman when they first meet. The woman should speak six to eight times, and the man should speak six to eight times.
2. Write Pamela and Mitch's first conversation. Pamela should speak six to eight times, and Mitch should speak six to eight times.

C Practice the conversation with your partner. If you would like to, read it in front of the class.

CHALLENGE

Pamela and Mitch both believed there were obstacles to their love: Pamela thought Mitch wouldn't love her because she was blind, and Mitch thought Pamela wouldn't love him because he wasn't handsome. In the end, it turned out that these were not real obstacles at all.

The couples in the following three stories faced obstacles to their love, too. But their obstacles were real.

A Read how each love story began.

1 Elizabeth and Robert

When Elizabeth met Robert in 1845, she was a famous poet in England and nearly 40 years old. Robert, 34, was also a poet, but not a famous one. They met after Robert wrote her what was essentially a fan letter. "I love your verses with all my heart," he wrote. Elizabeth wrote back, and Robert asked to meet her. During the next year, they wrote over 500 love letters to each other.

Robert wanted to marry Elizabeth and move

to a warm, sunny climate. She had a chronic cough that was the result of a childhood lung infection, and he feared that one more winter in England could kill her.

Because of her poor health, Elizabeth had spent most of her life at home with her father. He opposed her marriage; he wanted her to stay with him. "Can't you see that Robert's a fortune hunter?" he asked Elizabeth. "He doesn't want you—he wants your fame."

2 June and Johnny

Johnny was in love with June, and she was in love with him. But she was afraid to get involved with him. Johnny had many wonderful qualities, including enormous talent. And they had common interests—they were both singers and songwriters. In fact, they met while performing together. But Johnny was addicted to drugs.

His addiction began with one little pill he took to give him energy while on a concert tour in the late 1950s. Gradually, his drug use increased; he was in jail eight times because of the drugs. After seven years of drug abuse, Johnny decided

to stop. He asked June for help, and she talked to her father about it. "Let's pack our suitcases," her father said. "Your mother and I will help, too."

June and her parents went to Johnny's house and searched his bedroom for pills, which they threw away. Then Johnny went into the bedroom, and they locked the door. He stayed there for three days. The three days without drugs broke his addiction for a while. But during the next few years, he had several relapses into drug use. He finally gave up drugs for good after a six-week stay at a drug rehabilitation center.

3 Anna and Boris

Anna and Boris had been married for less than a week when Anna disappeared. They got married in their village in Siberia on a Saturday morning in 1946. The following Tuesday, Boris went to a neighboring village to work for a few days. When he returned, Anna was gone. Neighbors told him that soldiers had taken Anna and her entire family away. Her father had been critical of Stalin, the country's leader. That was a crime, and he and his family were exiled to a faraway village.

Frantic, Boris went from village to village for months looking for Anna. He couldn't find her. Meanwhile, Anna's mother was telling her she had to forget Boris. "You can never go home," her mother told her, "and Boris will never find you here. You're still young. You can be happy with someone else." Eventually, Anna did marry someone else. Boris did, too. But he never forgot Anna, his first love. And Anna never forgot him.

B What were the obstacles the couples in the stories faced? Write the number of the story on the line.

- ___ a. The government separated them because of her father's political views.
- ___ b. Her father opposed their marriage.
- ___ c. He was addicted to drugs.

C How do you think the stories ended? Read the endings below. Match each ending with a story. Write the number of the story on the line.

- ___ a. One evening, when they were singing together in a concert, he turned to her and asked, "Will you marry me?" She didn't say anything, so he repeated the question: "Will you marry me?" There were 7,000 people in the audience, and they began to chant, "Say yes! Say yes!" "All right," she answered. "Yes, I will." They were married for 35 years. They died in 2003 within four months of each other.
- ___ b. They didn't see each other for the next 60 years. When they were over 80 years old, after their spouses had died, they both returned to the village where they had met and married. She wanted to see the house where they had lived together for only three days. He had come to visit his parents' graves. She was standing in front of the house when she noticed an old man looking at her. "Is it you?" he asked. Incredibly, they were both in the village on the same day. A few weeks later, they remarried.
- ___ c. They married in secret. After the wedding, she returned to her father's house for a week. Then the couple moved to Italy. Her health improved there, and three years later, she gave birth to a son. Both continued to write poetry, and he, too, became famous. While in Italy, she wrote a poem to her husband that became one of the best-known love poems in the English language. It begins, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." She died in her husband's arms at age 55.

D Look at the Key on page 138 to see the full names of the couples in the three stories.

E Do you know a couple who faced an obstacle to their love? Tell the class about them.

1 *Thee* is an old form of the word *you*.