

5B Love at Exit 19

1 READING

- a How do you think people usually meet friends and partners nowadays? Number the phrases 1–5 (1 = the most popular). Then compare with a partner. Do you agree?
- A ☐ at work
 - B ☐ at school or university
 - C ☐ on the internet (e.g. on forums, on social networking sites, etc.)
 - D ☐ in a bar, club, etc.
 - E ☐ through friends
- b 3 15))) Read and listen to an article about Sonya Baker and Michael Fazio. Why did their relationship nearly never happen?



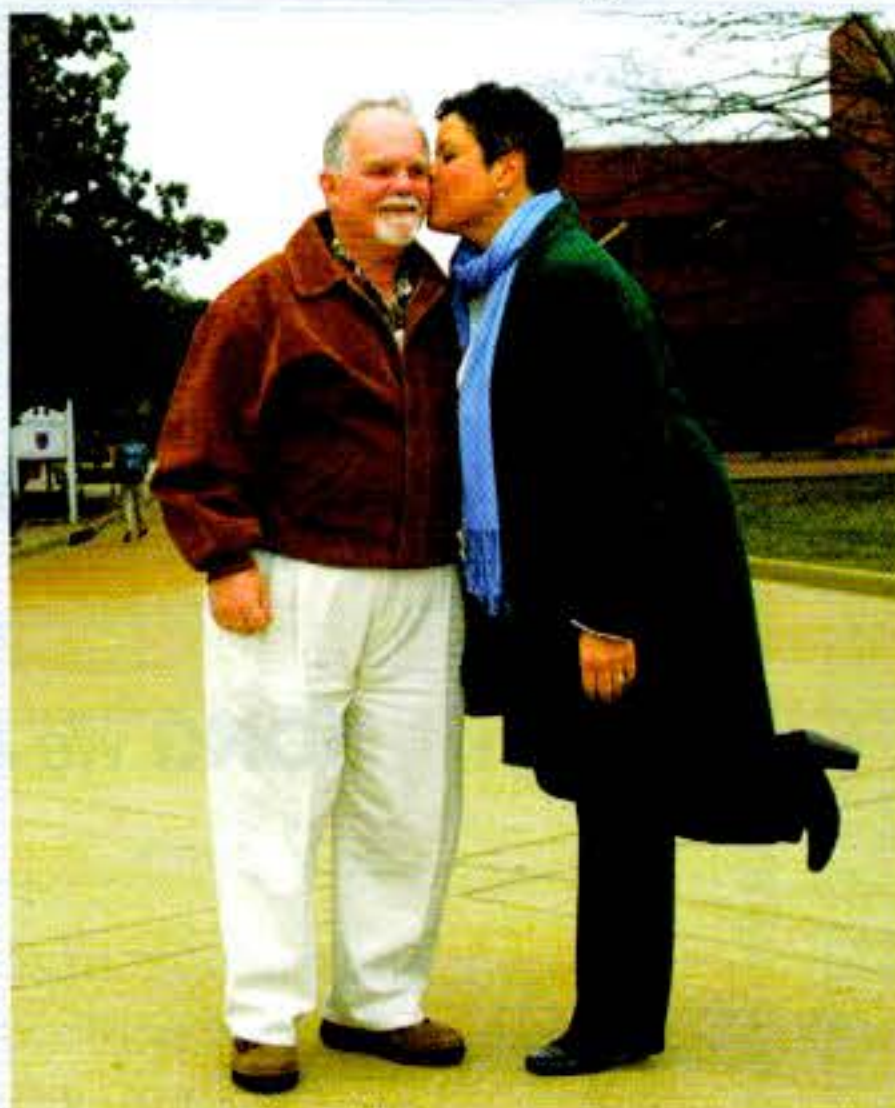
♥ Love at Exit 19

He was a tollbooth operator, she was a soprano who sang in Carnegie Hall. Their eyes met at Exit 19 of the New York State Thruway, when he charged her 37¢. The romance that followed was even less likely than the plot of an opera!

Sonya Baker was a frequent commuter from her home in the suburbs to New York City. One day, when she was driving to an audition, she came off the Thruway and stopped at the tollbooth where Michael Fazio was working. She chatted to him as she paid to go through, and thought he was cute. For the next three months, they used to exchange a few words as she handed him the money, and he raised the barrier to let her pass. 'It was mostly "What are you doing today? Where are you going?"' she said. They learned more about each other, for example that Sonya loved Puccini and Verdi, while Michael's love was the New York Yankees. But their conversations suddenly came to an end when Michael changed his working hours. 'He used to work during the day,' said Sonya, 'but he changed to night shifts.' Although Michael still looked out for Sonya's white Toyota Corolla, he did not see her again for six months. When Michael's working hours changed back to the day shift, he decided to put a traffic

cone in front of his lane. He thought, 'It will be like putting a candle in a window.' Sonya saw it, and their romance started up again. 'I almost crashed my car on various occasions,' she said, 'trying to cross several lanes to get to his exit.' Finally, she found the courage to give Michael a piece of paper with her phone number as she passed through the toll. Michael called her and for their first date they went to see the film *Cool Runnings*, and then later they went to an opera, *La Bohème*, and to a Yankees game.

They are now married and living in Kentucky, where Sonya is a voice and music professor at Murray State College and Michael runs an activity centre at a nursing home. It turned out that she had given him her number just in time. A short while later she moved to New Jersey and stopped using the New York State Thruway. 'I might never have seen him again,' she said.



Glossary

- a tollbooth a small building by the side of a road where you pay money to use the road
- Carnegie Hall a famous concert hall in New York City
- New York State Thruway a motorway
- New York Yankees a baseball team based in the Bronx in New York
- a traffic cone a plastic object, often red and white, used to show where vehicles can or can't go

- c Read the article again and number the events in the order they happened.

- A ☐ Michael changed his working hours.
- B ☐ Michael tried to find Sonya.
- C ☐ They got married.
- D ☐ Sonya moved to New Jersey.
- E ☐ Sonya gave Michael her phone number.
- F ☐ Michael changed his working hours again.
- G ☒ Sonya chatted to Michael.
- H ☐ They stopped seeing each other.
- I ☐ They had their first date.
- J ☐ Sonya and Michael moved to Kentucky.

- d Read the article again and look at the **highlighted** words and phrases. Try to work out what they mean. Then match them with 1–10 below.

- 1 _____ a period of time worked by a group of workers
- 2 _____ a person who travels into a city to work every day
- 3 _____ attractive, good-looking (*AmE*)
- 4 _____ what had happened was
- 5 _____ manages
- 6 _____ probable
- 7 _____ sth which is used to give light, made of wax
- 8 _____ have short conversations
- 9 _____ they looked at each other romantically
- 10 _____ was brave enough

2 GRAMMAR *usually* and *used to*

- a Think of a couple you know well, e.g. your parents or friends. How did they meet? Do you know any couples who met in unusual circumstances?
- b **3 16**))) Listen to four people talking about where they met their partner. Match each one with a place from **1a**.
Speaker 1 ☐ Speaker 2 ☐ Speaker 3 ☐ Speaker 4 ☐
- c Listen to each story again and take notes on how the people met. Compare your notes with your partner and listen again if necessary. Which meeting do you think was the most romantic?
- d Look at two extracts from the listening. Answer the questions with a partner.

We used to go to bars and clubs together on Saturday night.
It used to be quite difficult to meet people.

- 1 When do we use *used to*? How do you make negatives and questions?
- 2 How would you change these sentences (using *usually*) if you wanted to talk about present habits or situations?

- e ➤ **p.141 Grammar Bank 5B**. Learn more about *usually* and *used to*, and practise them.

3 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING linking



used to

Remember that *used to* and *use to* are normally linked and pronounced /ju:ste/.

- a **3 18**))) Listen and repeat the sentences. Copy the linking and the sentence rhythm.

- 1 I **used to** live in London.
- 2 She **didn't use to** wear glasses.
- 3 **Where** did you **use to** work before?
- 4 They **used to** see each other a lot.
- 5 **Didn't you use to** have a beard?

- b In pairs, tell each other about *three* of the following. Give as much information as you can. How do you feel about these people and things now?

Is there...

- a kind of **food** or **drink** you didn't use to like at all, but which you now like?
- a **TV series** you used to be addicted to? Why did you like it?
- a **singer** or a **kind of music** you used to listen to a lot (but don't any more)?
- a **sport** or **game** you used to play a lot, but which you've given up?

- a **place** you used to go in the summer holidays, and which you'd like to go back to?

- a **machine** or **gadget** you used to use a lot, but which is now out of date?



I used to hate most vegetables, especially spinach and cauliflower, but now I love them and usually eat a lot of vegetables every day...