



THE REVOLVING DOOR

Part 1: A Brief History of the Revolving Door

In the late 1800s, building designers faced two annoying problems: cold air rushing in every time someone opened the door, and people bumping into each other at busy entrances. The solution? A door that never had to open or close — it just kept turning.

The first revolving door was installed in a restaurant in New York City. It was quiet, elegant, and draft-proof. Over time, revolving doors became popular in hotels, office buildings, and airports. Today, they're seen as practical, stylish, and occasionally confusing.

Part 2: Mariela Meets the City Door

Mariela had never seen a revolving door before. She came from a small town where doors were made of wood and didn't spin like furniture on caffeine.

She stood outside the supermarket in Lima, watching the glass panels rotate. A man entered smoothly. A woman exited with a watermelon. Mariela took a deep breath and stepped in.

Her timing was... ambitious.

She stepped in a little too early and found herself wedged between two panels, turning sideways like a confused crab. Her shopping list slipped from her fingers and floated to the floor. A child giggled. The security guard watched silently, sipping his coffee. After two full spins and a moment of quiet dignity, Mariela shuffled out and straightened her shirt like nothing had happened.

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was the revolving door invented?
2. Where was the first one installed?
3. What problem did Mariela face at the supermarket?
4. How did other people react?
5. What do you think Mariela meant by "City doors are very energetic"?

Grammar Focus: Past Simple Tense

Examples from the story:

- She came from a small town.
- She stood outside the supermarket.
- Her shopping list flew out of her hand.

Mini Task: Underline five past simple verbs in the story. Then write one sentence about a time you saw something strange or confusing in public.

Teacher's Key

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was the revolving door invented?
To stop cold drafts and reduce entrance collisions.
2. Where was the first one installed?
In a restaurant in New York City.
3. What problem did Mariela face at the supermarket?
She got stuck between panels and dropped her shopping list.
4. How did other people react?
A child pointed, and a security guard raised an eyebrow.
5. What do you think Mariela meant by “City doors are very energetic”?
She was probably trying to stay calm or make a joke about her experience.