

# Stories for Lipreading

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## GADGETS by Anne Colledge.

[This text is read aloud at the beginning of this video:]  
Welcome to Stories for Lipreading. If you haven't used our website before, we suggest you look at our 'How to Use' page before you begin. We hope you enjoy this short, true story called 'Gadgets' by Anne Colledge.

### Gadgets by Anne Colledge.

This is a true story told to me by a friend.

I was sitting in my favourite chair watching football. Sunderland. My team. Nathan, the eldest of my grandchildren came in. "What do you want for your birthday present, Granddad?" he asked. "My seventy-fifth birthday do you mean? I want to forget it. I can't think of anything I want," I said.

"We'll club together and get you a surprise present," said Nathan.

When the present came, it was more of a shock than a surprise when I opened the white box.

"What is it?"

"A Sat Nav," Nathan grinned, "so you won't get lost in your car like you did last week and the week before."

I was none the wiser but Nathan fitted the machine into my car.

"What did you call it?" I asked.

"A Sat Nav. Short for Satellite Navigation."

"I know a satellite is up in the sky, but as far as I am concerned it can stay there."

Nathan groaned. "It will help you to navigate."

"Why can't you just say, 'find your way'?"

"Give it a try, Granddad."

So, the next week I went to visit my daughter in Manchester. I often visit her so I know the way and always go on the same roads. On the way back, I decided to use the new present to see if it would show me a better way home. There was a button saying 'Home'. Even I could press that.

Off I went, turn left, next roundabout turn right. I did what it said. Looking round, I didn't recognise anything. After driving for an hour, I was tired but started to recognise streets I knew. Then I realised I was back where I had started: at my daughter's house.

I pressed the 'Off' button and drove quickly home the usual way.

I can get lost easily on my own, without bothering with that machine. I haven't told Nathan as I don't want to hurt his feelings. After all he was trying to help me - but can an old dog learn new tricks? Speaking personally, I am having difficulties.