

## Vocabulary

## Mysteries and oddities

1 Match the events with the headlines below.

- 1 a popular myth *c* \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 a miracle \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 a coincidence \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 a tragic incident \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 an unexplained natural phenomenon \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 a supernatural event \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 a hoax \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 a practical joke \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 a publicity stunt \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 a mysterious disappearance \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 an unfortunate mishap \_\_\_\_\_

a Falling baby saved twice  
... by the same man

b *Scientists unable to explain raining  
fish in honduras*

c Great Wall of China not visible  
from space, new photos show

d 'Messages in bottles' discovered  
on beaches last week turn out to  
be advertisements

e 'UFO' photo not real,  
admits photographer

f Missing cruise  
ship 'cannot be  
explained' says  
coastguard

g *Fire survivor says she was woken  
by ghost of late father*

h Face of saint appears in sand  
in Italian seaside village


i TV channel shows 'documentary' on  
flying penguins on 1st April

j Footballer suffers sudden  
heart attack in cup final

k *Bride slips and falls into lake  
while posing for wedding photos*

## Listen and read

## Coincidences

2a  8.1 Listen to and/or read these stories and match the pictures with the stories. There is one picture you do not need.

## A

I work in a market in London, just at the weekends – I've got a second-hand book stall – and one day I was getting my stall ready when a lady came up and started looking at the books. She started chatting and telling me how she used to live in that part of London and how much it had changed since she'd last been in the area. While we were talking, I put out a book and she picked it up. 'Oh, *Grimm's Fairy Tales*,' she said, 'I had a copy of this when I was a child. I used to read it again and again.' She began flicking through it and I carried on laying out the books, and when I looked up she was just standing there shaking, and she'd gone completely white. 'But ... but ... this is my actual book,' she gasped, 'look, it's got my name, Joan, in it. How on earth did you get it?' Then she told me how there'd been a terrible fire while her family were away on holiday, and the house had been burnt to the ground. She thought all her belongings had been destroyed. She pulled out her purse to buy the book from me, but I stopped her. 'No, no ... please accept it as a gift – it's such a wonderful story.'

## B

I was walking along the road in Windsor where I live, when I heard a phone ringing in a phone box, and something prompted me to go in and pick it up. There was a voice at the other end saying, in a very businesslike way, 'Sorry to bother you at home, Julian, but I can't find that file you were working on. Do you remember where you put it?' It was Jasmine, who I work with at my office in London. I stopped her before she could go on. 'Jasmine, I'm in a phone box – how did you know I was here?' And she just said, 'Stop messing around, I'm really busy and I need that file.' I kept trying to convince her about where I was, but she just wouldn't believe me. Anyway, I told her where the file was, and then suddenly she interrupted me: 'Julian! Hang on a minute, I didn't dial your home phone number! I dialled the Windsor code, but then I dialled your security card number, which is next to your name in the book at work.' So, somehow, my security card number just happened to be the same number as the phone box that I was walking past.

C

A couple of years ago, we moved to an old house in the country and the man who lived there before had died, and we had to clear up a lot of his belongings. So we built a big bonfire at the end of the garden and took all the rubbish down there to burn. I'd just put a box full of stuff onto the fire, and I was standing chatting, when there was a bang, and I felt something hit the side of my head. I took my earring off and there was a bullet stuck in it, which had been on the fire and had exploded. If I hadn't had the earrings on, it would've gone straight into my neck. And the scary thing was, the bullet had the letter 'J' on it – and my name's Jane – so it was as if this bullet was intended for me!



b Listen and/or read again and match the sentences to the stories. There are four sentences for each story.

- 1 She must have felt astonished when she put the phone down. B
- 2 The previous owner must have had a gun in the house. \_\_\_\_
- 3 He could have walked on without stopping. \_\_\_\_
- 4 She could have missed him if she'd come on a Friday. \_\_\_\_
- 5 She can't have been standing very far away from the fire. \_\_\_\_
- 6 She can't be living in the area now. \_\_\_\_
- 7 She must have been delighted with what she found. \_\_\_\_
- 8 'J' might have been the initial of the manufacturer's name. \_\_\_\_
- 9 The fire can't have destroyed everything. \_\_\_\_
- 10 She could have been killed. \_\_\_\_
- 11 Somehow he must have known the call was for him. \_\_\_\_
- 12 She can't have been concentrating. \_\_\_\_

c Use words from the texts to complete these sentences. Try doing them without looking and then check your answers.

- 1 The man was getting his stall ready when the lady came up.
- 2 She started to flick \_\_\_\_ a book.
- 3 He looked up and saw that she had \_\_\_\_ completely white.
- 4 Jasmine thought Julian was messing \_\_\_\_ at first.
- 5 She thought she had \_\_\_\_ his home number.
- 6 The number \_\_\_\_ to be the same number as the phone box.
- 7 The woman was clearing \_\_\_\_ the dead man's belongings.
- 8 She put a box full of \_\_\_\_ onto the bonfire.
- 9 She found a bullet \_\_\_\_ in the earring.

## Language focus 1

### Overview of modal verbs

#### 3 Choose the correct alternative.

- If you like, I **can** / **may** make an appointment for you to see Dr Krall tomorrow.
- Passengers **mustn't** / **don't have to** smoke while on board the plane.
- Don't let Sylvie climb that tree. She **can** / **might** fall.
- You probably **shouldn't** / **mustn't** keep your passport in that pocket: it **should** / **could** easily be stolen.
- I'm afraid Karen **can't** / **couldn't** come to the party tomorrow because she's got flu.
- Oh no! It **mustn't** / **can't** be seven o'clock already! Jill and Graham will be here in 15 minutes!
- I absolutely **ought to** / **have to** leave the house at six if I want to be at the station by six-thirty.
- Be careful, that pot's very heavy. You **have to** / **could** hurt your back.



#### 4 Replace the phrases in bold with a modal verb phrase. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

- Is it true that cats **are able to** see in the dark? can
- It's necessary for you to** wear sunscreen when you go to the beach. \_\_\_\_\_
- It's impossible for it to** be that expensive. I'm sure **there's** a mistake. \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you think **it's the right thing for me to** buy Alex a birthday present? \_\_\_\_\_
- The doctor said I'm **not allowed to** lift anything heavy. \_\_\_\_\_
- It's possible that** we'll be a bit late tonight. \_\_\_\_\_
- It's not necessary for you to** join the team if you don't want to. \_\_\_\_\_
- Frank's not in his office. I suppose **it's possible that he's** at lunch. \_\_\_\_\_
- Come on, put those books away – **it's not a good idea for you to** be studying at this time of night. \_\_\_\_\_
- Am I allowed to** have tomorrow off? **It's necessary for me to** go to the dentist. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5 Complete the conversations with an appropriate modal verb. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

- A: Is it possible to do colour copies on this printer?  
B: Well you can, but it takes ages.
- A: Do you think it'll snow tonight?  
B: It \_\_\_\_\_. It's suddenly got very cold.
- A: Don't you think you'd better see someone about your toothache?  
B: I know I \_\_\_\_\_ but I hate going to the dentist.
- A: Isn't that your boyfriend over there with Susie?  
B: It \_\_\_\_\_ be! He's supposed to be in Paris on business!
- A: Do I really need to speak Spanish for the job?  
B: Well, you \_\_\_\_\_ but it helps.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ I sit here?  
B: Sure, go ahead.
- A: Come inside now – it's getting dark!  
B: Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ we? We're in the middle of a game.

## Vocabulary

### Extreme adjectives

#### 6 Replace the words in bold with an extreme adjective in the box.

deafening    exhausting    furious    horrendous  
huge    ridiculous    starving    stunning  
superb    tiny

*furious*

There were <sup>1</sup>**very angry** scenes in Parliament today when the government's transport plans came under attack. 'The proposed law is <sup>2</sup>**very silly** and just shows how out of touch the government is with the country,' said the Shadow Transport Minister

<sup>3</sup>**Very big** crowds greeted a rare open-air performance by the Manchester Philharmonic last night. After nearly an hour's delay, the orchestra came on to <sup>4</sup>**very noisy** applause, and went on to give what many have described as a <sup>5</sup>**very good** performance.

Dear all,

Arrived here after an <sup>6</sup>**very tiring** two day drive through France. Staying in a <sup>7</sup>**very small** village with <sup>8</sup>**very beautiful** views across the mountains. Hotel food is <sup>9</sup>**very bad**, and we were <sup>10</sup>**very hungry** until we found a lovely little restaurant nearby ...

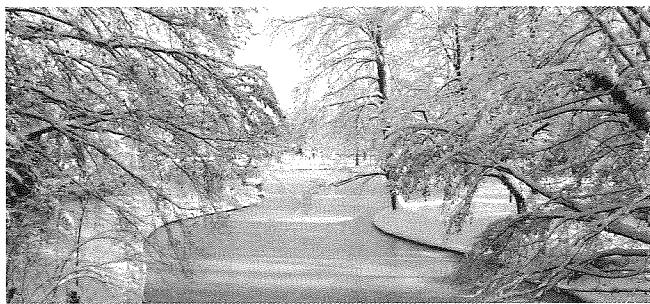
7a Four of the sentences below are wrong. Correct the mistakes by changing the word in bold.

- 1 Wear a coat when you go out – it's **quite** cold for this time of year. ✓
- 2 I find the idea of bungee jumping **absolutely** frightening. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Catherine was **very** furious about the mess that the children had made. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Can you turn your music down, please? It's very **noisy**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 We've been moving house all day – we're absolutely **exhausted**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Mum, I'm absolutely **hungry** – can I have a burger? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Have you seen the new sitcom on ABC? It's **really** funny. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Didn't you take an umbrella? You must be absolutely **wet**. \_\_\_\_\_

b  8.2 Listen and check.

## Language focus 2

### Past modals



8a Cross out the modals which do not fit in the sentences below. Sometimes you only need to cross out one.

- 1 Look, the river's frozen! It **must have been** / **should have been** / **can't have been** very cold during the night.
- 2 A: I think Greg's out. He didn't answer the phone.  
B: But he **might not have heard** / **couldn't hear** / **may have heard** it – he sometimes plays his music very loud.
- 3 A: Here, I brought you some flowers.  
B: Oh, you **shouldn't have done** / **didn't have to do** / **couldn't have done** that.
- 4 Sally! Look where you're going when you cross the road. You **must have been** / **could have been** / **might have been** hit by a car!
- 5 At school we **could learn** / **had to learn** / **managed to learn** two languages if we wanted to.
- 6 A: I'm very sorry I'm late, I got stuck in traffic.  
B: Well you **could have called** / **must have called** / **should have called** to let us know. We've been waiting for half an hour.  
A: I was going to phone, but I **couldn't find** / **can't have found** / **couldn't have found** the number.

b  8.3 Listen and check.

9 Use the prompts to write complete sentences.

A

PETE: Oh no! I / lose / my wallet.

Oh no! I've lost my wallet.

SUE: Where / last / have it?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

PETE:

I / not know. I / use / last night when I / buy / train ticket so I / must / have it then.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

SUE:

you / use it / since then?

3 \_\_\_\_\_

PETE:

No. I suppose / might / lose it on / train or / I might / leave it / home this morning.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

SUE:

Why / you / phone home / check?

5 \_\_\_\_\_

B

STEVE:

Where / you / be? / It / be / eleven o'clock!

1 \_\_\_\_\_

ZENA:

I / get / stuck / traffic.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

STEVE:

Well, you / should / phone!

3 \_\_\_\_\_

ZENA:

I / be / sorry, I / leave / mobile phone / home.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

STEVE:

But if I / know / you / be / late / I could / go / pub.

5 \_\_\_\_\_

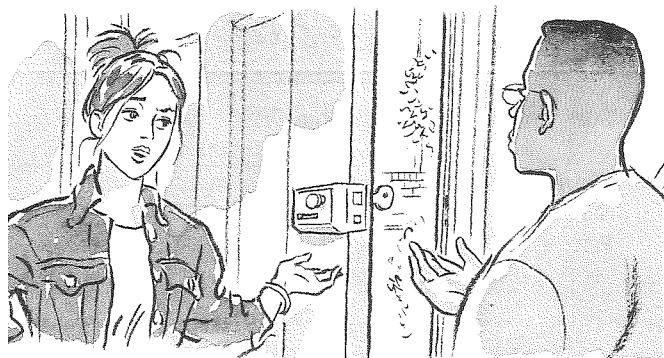
ZENA:

I / be / really sorry.

6 \_\_\_\_\_



**10** Vanessa, Georgina, Mike and Gavin are students who share a house. Complete the gaps with the positive or negative past form of a modal verb (*should, ought to, must, can't, might, or could*) and an appropriate verb.



**VANESSA:** Someone forgot to lock the front door last night.

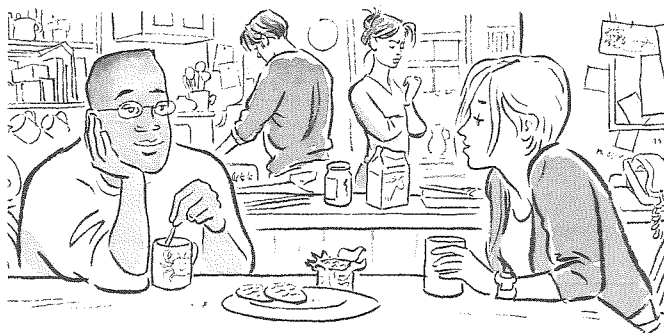
**MIKE:** Well, it <sup>1</sup> *can't have been* me. I definitely remember locking it, so it <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ someone who came home after me.



**GEORGINA:** You slept in the garden all night! Why didn't you wake us up?

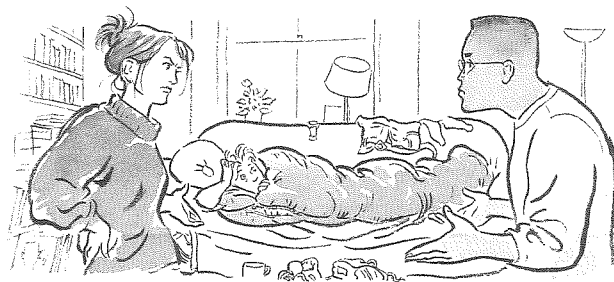
**GAVIN:** Well, I rang the bell for ages, but no one answered. You <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to bed.

**GEORGINA:** Oh, you idiot. You <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a stone at the window.



**GEORGINA:** Vanessa and Gavin aren't speaking to each other this morning.

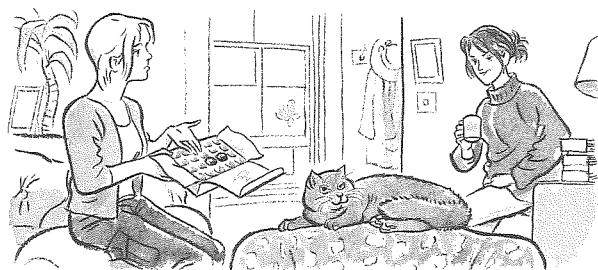
**MIKE:** They <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ an argument. I remember hearing shouting last night.



**VANESSA:** Who's this?

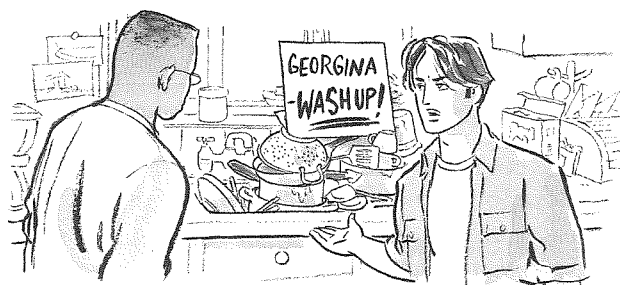
**MIKE:** It's just my friend, Bill.

**VANESSA:** Well, you <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ us that you were bringing someone home. I just sat on him!



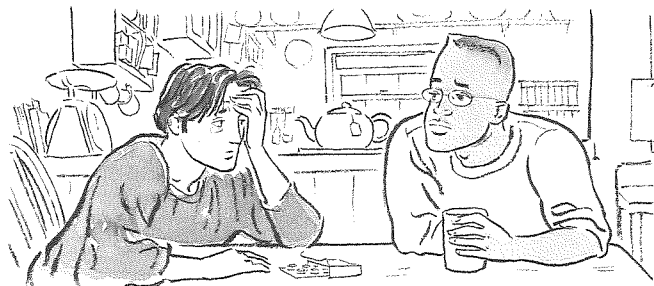
**GEORGINA:** Oh no! Where have my chocolates gone? There are only two left!

**VANESSA:** Well, I think the cat <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ them because I forgot to feed him, or it <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Gavin, because you know what he's like when he's hungry!



**GAVIN:** Look at this – and Georgina still hasn't done the washing-up!

**MIKE:** Well she <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the note.




**MIKE:** You look terrible.

**GAVIN:** Yes, I feel really sick.


**MIKE:** Well, you <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Georgina's chocolates. It's your own fault.

## Pronunciation

### Weak form of *have*

11a  8.4 Listen to the pairs of sentences and circle the one you hear.

- 1 a She can't have sent the letter.  
b She can't send the letter.
- 2 a It must have cost a fortune!  
b It must cost a fortune!
- 3 a You should have become an actor.  
b You should become an actor.
- 4 a Careful, she might have hit you.  
b Careful, she might hit you.
- 5 a It could have hurt a bit.  
b It could hurt a bit.
- 6 a We can't have put it in the wrong place.  
b We can't put it in the wrong place.

b  8.5 Listen and practise saying the phrases with the weak form of *have*.

## Writing

### A story

13a Complete the table with the words in the box.

alone   amazing   awful   bolts   carriage  
coincidence   cold   dark, empty road  
deafening   frightened   golden disc   hoax  
huge   incredible   iron bars   key   massive  
practical joke   prescription for medicine   quiet  
ship   small box   stormy   stunning  
supernatural event   tiny   tired  
unexplained natural phenomenon   unfortunate mishap

Adjectives	Mysteries and oddities	Objects/places
amazing		

b Complete the sentences below to write a story about a mystery. Use the vocabulary from exercise 13a and your own ideas.

## Vocabulary

### Mysteries

12 Put the letters in the correct order to complete the sentences.

- 1 It's a film about **sagternrgs** who controlled the illegal alcohol trade during the prohibition period in the USA. gangsters
- 2 The neighbour said she'd heard **arcsmes** coming from the apartment. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 This castle was built as a **sterfros** to protect the young king in the event of an invasion. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Do you believe there are **slinea** out there on another planet? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The 'photo' of a **FOU** turned out to be a hoax. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 One of the patients was brought in with **stonghu dwosun**, where she'd been shot several times. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Carl stuck to his story, but he failed the **eli trocteed** test. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 When she arrived in the country, she was immediately charged with **cadbintou** of the missing child. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Preparing for the approaching hurricane, the doors had to be **leadin thus**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Cars of the future won't need wheels – they'll **rovhe** over any surface. \_\_\_\_\_

## *It happened to me ...*

This supernatural event (mystery/oddity) happened to me on a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) night when I was in/on/at \_\_\_\_\_ (place), on my way to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of city/town/etc.).

I'd been \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) as normal, and was feeling a bit \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) when suddenly a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (object) appeared in front of me. I \_\_\_\_\_ (verb). As I got a closer look, I could see it was \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) and making a (n) \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) sound.

What I couldn't understand was how/why/where \_\_\_\_\_ (what?). Was this a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (mystery/oddity), or just a (n) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Then, just as quickly as it had appeared, it disappeared, and I was left with \_\_\_\_\_ (object). I decided to \_\_\_\_\_ (what?).

Five days later, I arrived in \_\_\_\_\_ (place). I told everyone there what had happened, but nobody would believe me. It was then that I remembered the \_\_\_\_\_ (object), so I took it out to show it to everybody. But when I pulled it out, to my horror, I saw it had \_\_\_\_\_ (what?).

To this day nobody really knows if it was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (mystery/oddity) or a \_\_\_\_\_ (mystery/oddity) that happened to me that night.