

Writing

1 Use the sentences a–e to complete the letter.

- a Well, I've got to go now.
- b I've got lots to tell you too!
- c Write back soon!
- d I guess I should start by telling you about my new school.
- e The kids here are really nice too.

2 Choose the topic of each paragraph.

Paragraph 1

Mena describes her new school / gives the reason for writing.

Paragraph 2

She describes her new school / describes her computer class.

Paragraph 3

She talks about her new friends / says she is lonely.

Paragraph 4

She gives the reason for ending the letter / says how she feels.

Paragraph 5

She continues her news / asks Laura to reply.

Dear Laura,

I was so happy to get your letter! It was great to hear your news.

(1) _____

(2) _____ It's quite different from our old one. It has some great things, like a computer room. We can also access the internet and we've started our own website! The school also has great sports facilities, like an indoor basketball court and two volleyball courts.

(3) _____ I've made some new friends, and I'm beginning to think it's not so bad here after all. We sometimes meet at the weekend and go to the cinema or just sit around and chat. But I still miss you and my other friends!

(4) _____ I got home a bit late because our chess club had a meeting. Now I've got to do my homework – boring!

(5) _____ I can't wait to hear from you!

Love,

Mena

3 Where could you add these extra sentences? Write a paragraph number 1–5 next to each one. You will only use four of the paragraphs.

- a I haven't heard from Jane for a while. Is she OK? _____
- b We meet every Thursday afternoon. It's great fun! _____
- c We also have a great chemistry lab. I'm looking forward to doing some experiments – I hope they don't go wrong! _____
- d I'm glad you and your family are fine. _____

Listening

1

You will hear a teacher talking to a student about a language school. For each question, write a word or short phrase to fill in the missing information.

Study French in France at The Toulon School of French

- one-week and two-week (1) _____ for teenagers
- good school (2) _____:
 - (3) _____ in the morning
 - trips and sport in the afternoon
- special (4) _____ for students about to take exams
- every student gets a (5) _____ at the end

2

The Weird and the Unexplained



Reading

Read the article about ghosts and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| 1 Ghost stories are traditional in many different parts of the world. | T/F | 4 On the second night in the lab, Vic's experiences made him shake with fear. | T/F |
| 2 Witnesses usually have different experiences in the same haunted place. | T/F | 5 Infrasound is caused only by natural things. | T/F |
| 3 Vic only saw the strange object in his lab for a moment or two. | T/F | 6 Vic realised that what he had seen wasn't really there. | T/F |

THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE

Our fearless reporter takes a step into the unknown to investigate whether the weird world of the supernatural can be explained. Hold on to the edge of your seats!

IN EVERY CULTURE people have always told dark tales about things that go bump in the night and other mysterious incidents. Is there any explanation for these strange sightings from all over the world? Are there really ghosts haunting the dim halls of ancient buildings? Or are these visions simply tricks of the imagination? A British scientist believes he may have found the answer.

One reason that people believe in ghost stories is because different witnesses often report the same bizarre experiences about one particular place, a place that is haunted. Usually, witnesses say they had a strange feeling of anxiety or they were scared and that they saw something misty floating in the distance. But scientist Vic Tandy thinks he has found out why people often have the same odd experiences in the same place.

One night Vic was working late and alone in a university laboratory that everyone said was haunted. Suddenly, the hairs stood up on the back of his neck when, out of the corner of his eye, something grey appeared and was floating towards him. Then, just as suddenly, it vanished. The next night Vic was alone again in the lab and he was doing some work on a long metal blade. The handle of the blade was held tightly in a vice but for no real reason the blade began to shake violently. Vic decided he had to solve the mystery and after some careful detective work he came up with an answer.

The answer he found was infrasound. Infrasound is a type of sound wave or vibration which is below what the human ear can hear naturally. These sounds can come from all sorts of natural sources, such as animals or earthquakes, or they can even

come from machines. Vic discovered that a fan in the laboratory wasn't working properly and it was giving out infrasound waves. This was, according to Vic, the source of the haunted lab mystery. So how can sound waves make people think they've seen a ghost? Scientists have known for many years that infrasound waves can make people feel scared or anxious. Vic Tandy also believed that the sound waves caused his eyeball to shake in the same way the metal blade did and that this is why he saw something that wasn't there. It was just an illusion.

It's a brilliant explanation and there's no doubt that Vic Tandy is a very clever man. But is it really the reason for all the ghost stories that people have told around the world and through the ages? Perhaps it is. Yet, at the back of my mind, I can't help thinking that maybe this answer is just a little too simple. What do you think?

DICTIONARY CORNER

1 Complete the sentences using the past simple of the verbs from the box.

appear • investigate • report • shake • vanish • witness

- 1 Although scientists _____ the case for several weeks, they were unable to find out what really happened.
- 2 Sandy _____ with fear as the ghost came towards her.
- 3 Over 500 people _____ the incident to the police.
- 4 The UFO first _____ in the sky at 9pm. It flew around for about ten minutes and then suddenly _____.
- 5 Everyone in the room _____ the event but they decided not to tell anyone because they thought that no-one would believe them.

2 Rearrange the letters to find three words that have a similar meaning to 'strange'.

- 1 D O D _____
- 2 D E W R I _____
- 3 R I E B A Z R _____

3 Complete the paragraph using these words.

incident • occasion • experience

On one (1) _____, three teenagers saw the Lizard Man while they were walking home from school. The (2) _____ occurred at half past four in the afternoon. It was a terrifying (3) _____, and they didn't want to talk about it for a long time.



Grammar 1



Past simple and past continuous

Look again at *Grammar database 3* page 177 before doing these exercises.

1 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple to complete the text.

Last night, at about three o'clock in the morning, I (1) _____ (hear) a strange noise downstairs. I (2) _____ (get) out of bed, and (3) _____ (put) on my dressing gown. With my heart beating fast, I slowly (4) _____ (go) to the top of the stairs. It (5) _____ (sound) like there (6) _____ (be) people talking in the kitchen. I (7) _____ (not/know) what to do. Finally, I (8) _____ (decide) to go downstairs. I (9) _____ (make) my way quietly down the stairs, and (10) _____ (listen) at the kitchen door. A man (11) _____ (ask): '(12) _____ (you/kill) him?' and a woman (13) _____ (reply): 'Yes, I (14) _____ (shoot) him.' Then the man asked: 'Why (15) _____ (you/do) that?' Suddenly, I (16) _____ (realise) that there (17) _____ (not/be) really any people in the kitchen. It (18) _____ (be) just the TV. But why (19) _____ (it/turn) itself on in the middle of the night?

2 Put the verbs in brackets into the past continuous to complete the text.



While I (1) _____ (**stand**) in the kitchen wondering about the TV, I looked out of the window. It was dark, but I could see a figure outside. Someone (2) _____ (**walk**) slowly across the garden! He whispered something. He (3) _____ (**talk**) to another person! What (4) _____ (**they/do**) in my garden? I (5) _____ (**wonder**) what to do when they started walking towards the kitchen window. They (6) _____ (**come**) towards me! I didn't know what to do so I grabbed a knife and waited. They (7) _____ (**get**) closer and closer. I was so frightened. They came right up to the window, and I saw their faces. It was my neighbours, Alan and Liz! They obviously (8) _____ (**not/try**) to break into my house, so why (9) _____ (**they/talk**) in my garden in the middle of the night?

3 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or past continuous to complete the text.

I (1) _____ (**open**) the kitchen door and Alan and Liz (2) _____ (**come**) in. They (3) _____ (**sit**) down, and I (4) _____ (**make**) them both a cup of coffee. This is what Liz (5) _____ (**tell**) me: 'We (6) _____ (**sleep**) in our bedroom when we (7) _____ (**hear**) a loud noise coming from your kitchen. So Alan and I (8) _____ (**decide**) to investigate. We (9) _____ (**come**) down to your garden, but couldn't see any lights on. People (10) _____ (**talk**) in the kitchen, though! So, we (11) _____ (**think**) that we should call the police. Just then, you (12) _____ (**turn**) the light on in the kitchen, and we (13) _____ (**see**) that everything (14) _____ (**be**) all right. So, we (15) _____ (**stand**) in the garden wondering whether to say hello to you or not, when you (16) _____ (**open**) the kitchen window and (17) _____ (**say**) hello to us!' That (18) _____ (**explain**) almost everything. But I never (19) _____ (**find**) out why the TV came on in the middle of the night!

4 Complete each reply using the emphatic past simple.

Example: 'They never discovered what happened.' 'Actually, they did discover what happened.'

- 1 'The ship didn't disappear.' 'Actually, it _____ for a few minutes.'
- 2 'He never said he believed in UFOs.'
'In fact, he _____ he thought it was possible that UFOs exist.'
- 3 'No scientists witnessed the incident.' 'That's not true. One scientist _____ it.'
- 4 'No-one went to the police.'
'Actually, a couple of people _____ to the police, but the police didn't believe them.'
- 5 'There's no way that we had exactly the same dream last night.'
'Well, I think that we _____ exactly the same dream!'

DICTIONARY CORNER

Complete the sentences using the words from the box.

big • deep • fast • far • high • long • narrow • short • slow • wide

- 1 When we watched the video in _____ motion, we could see how the magician did the trick.
- 2 You've got quite a _____ temperature, so you'd better stay in bed today.
- 3 I was _____ asleep when you rang.
- 4 When the fire broke out on the plane, I thought we were in _____ trouble.
- 5 Sarah had a _____ escape yesterday. A car nearly hit her while she was riding her bike.
- 6 I thought the kids were asleep but they're both _____ awake.
- 7 Let's take a _____ cut through the woods. It will save us time.
- 8 The UFO flew overhead for quite a _____ time before it disappeared.
- 9 How _____ away was the UFO?
- 10 The tall, strong man in my dream said to me in a powerful, _____ voice: 'Get out of here now! You're in danger!'

Grammar 2



used to and would

Look again at *Grammar database 4* page 178 before doing these exercises.

1 Rewrite each of the words or phrases in bold using *used to*.

- 1 Janice **loved** mystery stories when she was a teenager. _____
- 2 I **went** looking for aliens whenever I could! _____
- 3 She never **believed** in ghosts – until that terrible night! _____
- 4 As a young boy, Mark **wasn't** scared of spiders. _____
- 5 **Did you often have** nightmares when you were younger? _____

2 Rewrite each of the words or phrases in bold using *would*.

- 1 My mum and dad **went** to the cinema every Friday night before they had kids. _____
- 2 It **took** people hours to do simple research before the internet was created. _____
- 3 In the 1970s, the crew **often saw** Bob Loft on their flights. _____
- 4 **Did you use to do** experiments in the science lab when you were at school? _____
- 5 She **never slept** without the light on. _____

3 if a sentence is correct, put a tick (✓). if a sentence is incorrect, put a cross (X).

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 He was having bad dreams almost every night when he was younger. _____ | 4 Do you used to think a monster lived under your bed? _____ |
| 2 I never used to be interested in the unexplained. _____ | 5 I'd usually sleep with the light on. _____ |
| 3 Stella would hate ghost stories when she was a kid. _____ | 6 Magicians never used explaining how they did their tricks. _____ |
| | 7 Would your parents let you read horror stories when you were little? _____ |