

Synchronicity

SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1038S_EN

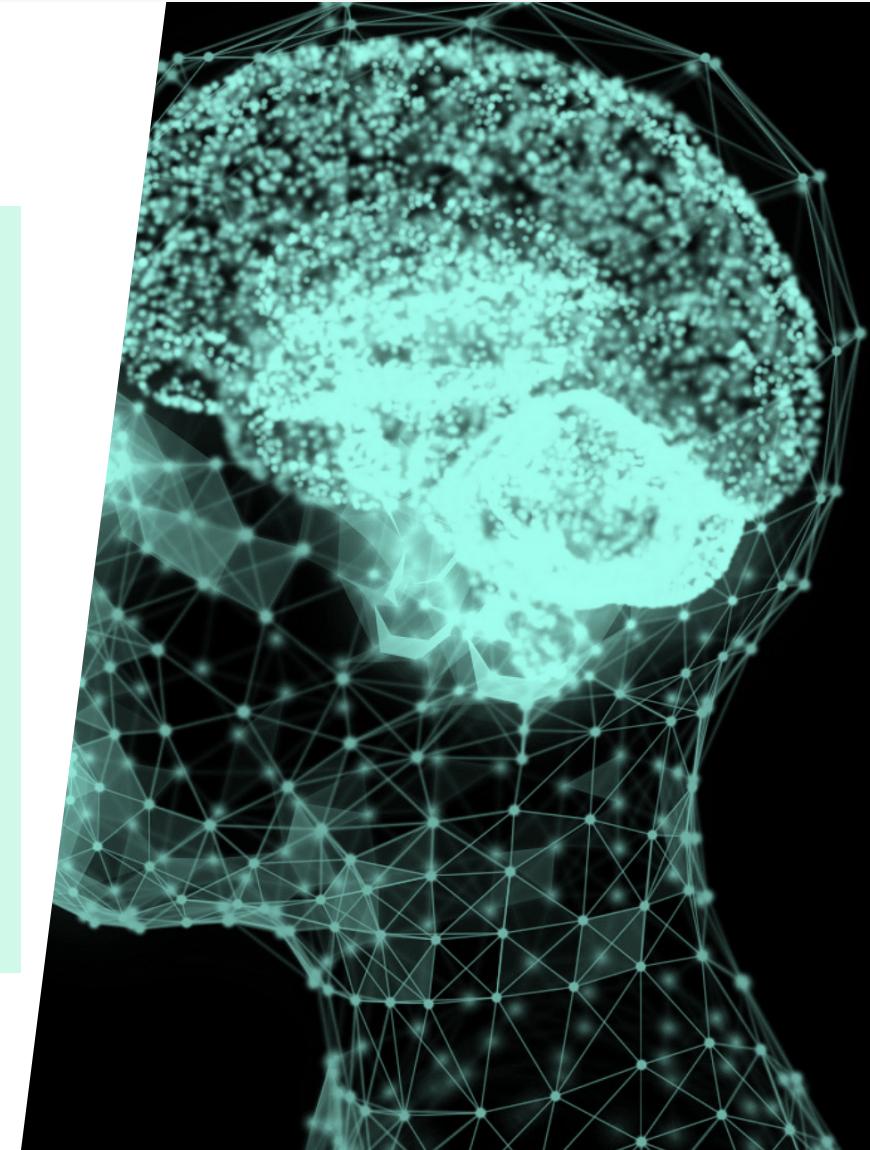
LANGUAGE
English

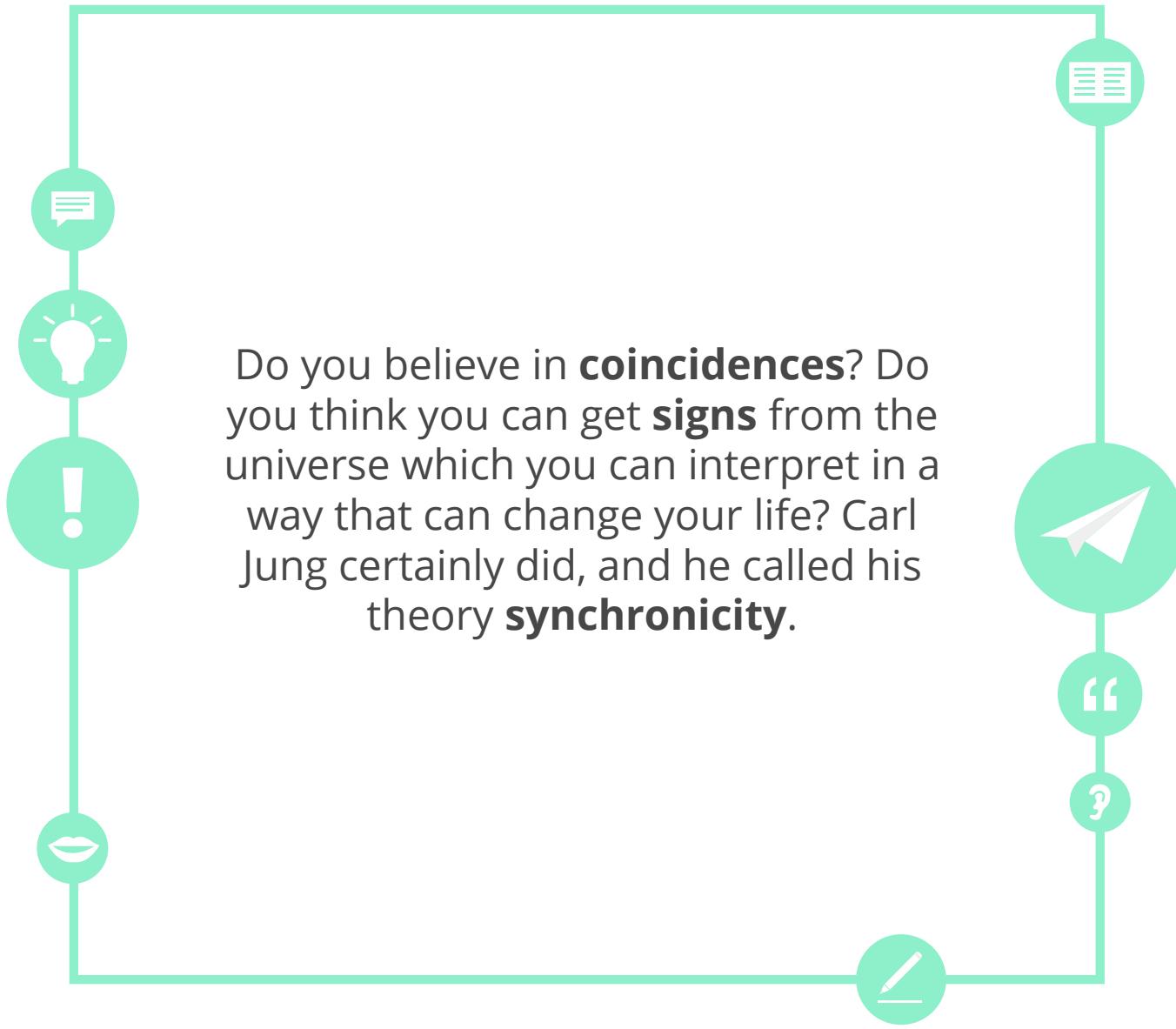




Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a complex technical text about synchronicity.
- Can discuss the act of rationalising and explain it precisely and in depth.







Psychology

What do you know about psychology?

What about the different types of psychology?

clinical
psychology

educational
psychology

forensic
psychology



Famous psychologists

Have you heard of any famous psychologists?



Sigmund Freud

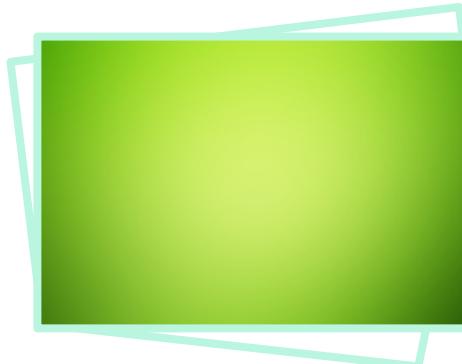
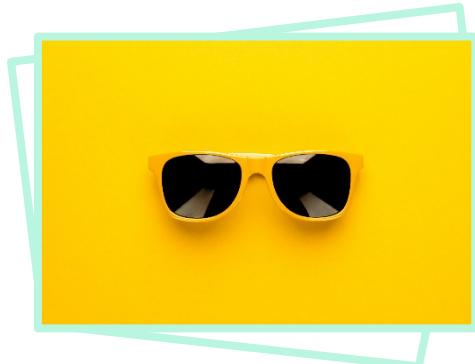
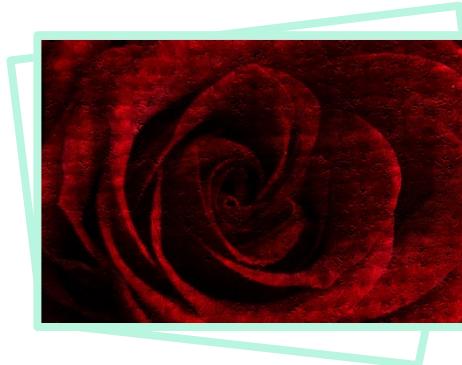
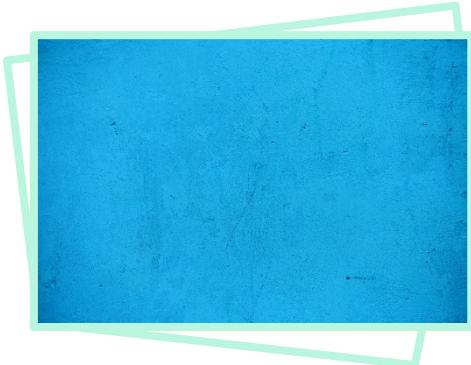
Carl Jung

Jean Piaget



Colour association

What do these colours make you think of? Your teacher will tell you what people normally associate with these colours.



power, anger

loyalty, wisdom



Synchronicity



Synchronicity is a theory which was first put forward by psychologist Carl Jung, which suggests that events can be “meaningful coincidences”, even if they occur with no causal relationship. To put it another way, Jung believed that events can be connected by meaning; they do not have to be connected by cause.

Carl Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who was active in the first half of the twentieth century. His most famous collaboration was with Sigmund Freud, during the time when Freud needed collaborators to validate his ideas on psychoanalysis.



Synchronicity



Jung also travelled widely and expounded many hypotheses, among them the above mentioned theory of synchronicity.

Jung's most famous example of synchronicity comes from one of his patients, a woman who was "psychologically inaccessible". The woman had had a dream about a golden scarab beetle and was recounting the dream to Jung in his office the next day.

At that very moment, Jung heard something knocking gently against the window; on closer inspection it turned out to be a real scarab beetle, which were very rare in that climate. Jung caught the beetle and handed it to his patient.



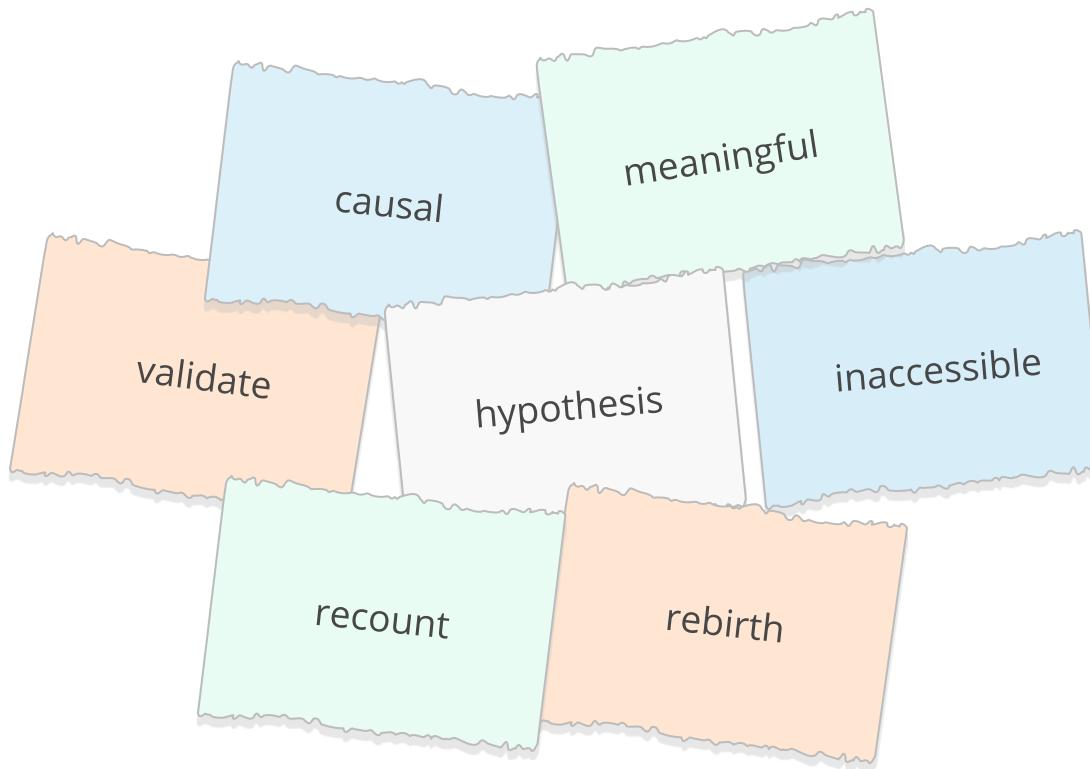
Synchronicity

Jung, however, did not treat this as a simple coincidence, but rather attempted to find meaning behind the event. He believed that the scarab beetle was connected to rebirth and that the woman in question would soon experience a rebirth of her own. No coincidence was considered meaningless.



Vocabulary

Check the meaning of these words from the text with your teacher.





Tell your teacher

How do you understand the term *synchronicity*?

Can you find an example from your own life to illustrate your explanation?



Tell your teacher

What do you think of the story about the scarab beetle?
Was Jung right to attach meaning to such a coincidence?





Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on
training your listening comprehension



What order do you hear these words and phrases in the text? Number them 1 - 9

probability

symbol/number

rationalise

contradict

over and over

criticised

dreams

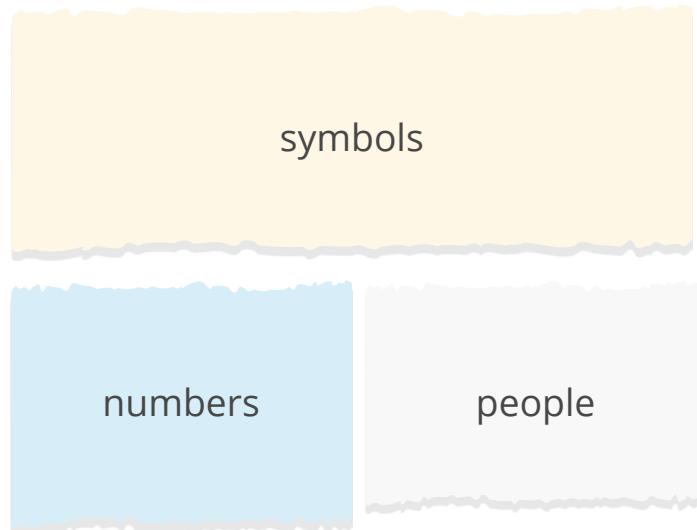
preconceptions

cognitive bias



Discuss

Do you have any examples of meaningful coincidences, or synchronicity, in your life?





Tell your teacher

**What do you think
about the criticisms
levelled at Jung?
Do you agree?**

statistics and
probability

cognitive bias

patterns

preconceptions

rationalise



Tell your teacher

**Do you think the concept of synchronicity is useful?
Can it help us to be more mindful or does it make us attach
significance to meaningless events?**





What about you?

Are you the kind of person who attaches significance to certain numbers, symbols or dreams?



Discuss

**Read the quote from the listening text below and discuss it.
Have you ever tried to rationalise something that doesn't make any
sense? Why do you think you did it?**

“

The human mind wants to rationalise events. Furthermore, we avoid information which contradicts those things which we believe.

”



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Answer key

Exercise p. 6

Red: anger, courage, love, romance

Blue: health, tranquillity, knowledge, understanding

Green: greed, jealousy, peace, balance

Yellow: happiness, freshness, optimism, creativity



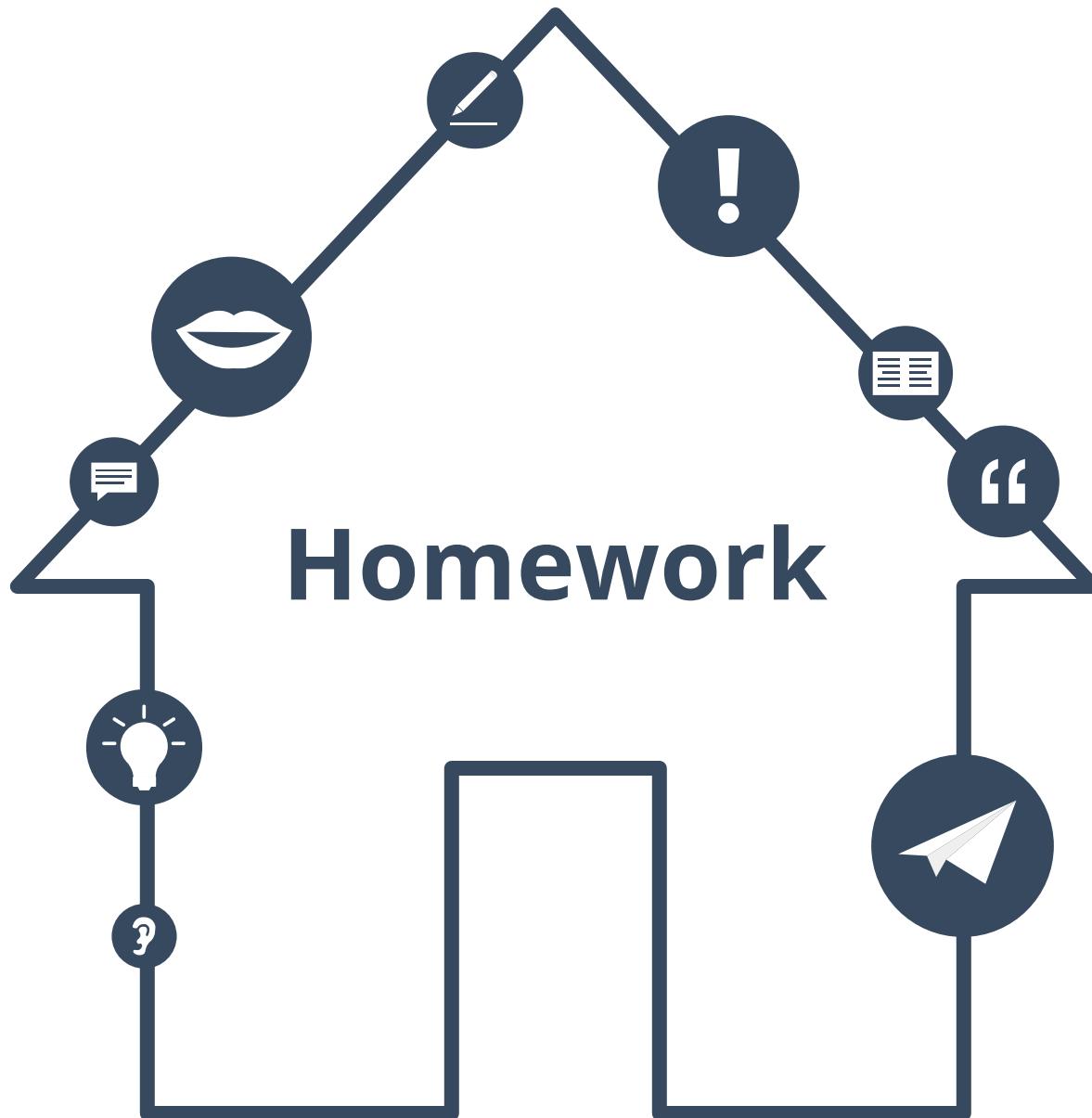
Transcription

There are many examples of synchronicity, though whether they should truly be called that is worthy of doubt, since it is difficult to find the meaning behind them. In general, synchronicity involves a **symbol or number appearing in dreams** and then in real life, or appearing **over and over again**. This symbol or number is supposed to mean something to the person to whom it occurs.

Jung's theory of synchronicity has been **criticised** by scientists, psychologists and sociologists. Scientists claim that standard science, **probability**, and statistics can explain away coincidences even when the probability is very low. Psychologists and sociologists have pointed to the phenomenon of **cognitive bias**: we tend to attach patterns and meanings to certain events in a way that conforms to our preconceptions or our wishes. The human mind wants to **rationalise** events. Furthermore, we avoid information which **contradicts** those things which we believe.

Whatever we may believe, Jung said that synchronicity was, for those who could see it, an ever-present reality.

Exercise p. 14





Unscramble the words

A

Synchronicity

is

theory

meaningful
coincidences.

about

Carl Jung's

B

that
synchronicity

explained by

believe

probability.

Scientists

can be



Fill in the gaps

1. Synchronicity is a theory that tells us events can be connected by _____ as well as cause.
2. The theory was put forward by Carl Jung, who _____ with Sigmund Freud.
3. Jung connected a scarab beetle to _____.
4. Synchronicity often involves numbers or symbols _____.
5. Probability and _____ can often explain away coincidence.
6. People tend to want to _____ events.

rationalise

recurring

collaborated

meaning

rebirth

statistics



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 25

- 1. meaning, 2. collaborated, 3. rebirth, 4. recurring, 5. statistics, 6. rationalise

Exercise p. 24

- A. Synchronicity is Carl Jung's theory about meaningful coincidences.
- B. Scientists believe that synchronicity can be explained by probability.



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