Mystery Solved!

Vocabulary and Grammar

A Circle the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. Martin noticed something different about his surroundings / observation.
2. It took a few moments for him to reduce / absorb the situation.
3. He stood quietly at the door of his house and made some remarks / observations.
4. The mystery / theory was: Who opened the door to his house while he was at work?
5. Martin did not enter his home for fear that an aggressive / affectionate person was inside.
6. Instead he called the police to investigate the district / case.

B Choose the correct modal to complete the sentence.

1. “I hear sirens. The police ________________ be on their way,” said Martin’s neighbor.
   a. could       b. must       c. must have
   a. can’t       b. could       c. must
3. “I ________________ locked the door this morning. I always do,” he said.
   a. must       b. must have     c. couldn’t have
4. “You can’t enter your house because someone ________________ be in there,” the police officer said.
   a. couldn’t    b. must        c. may
5. “We will search inside where we ________________ find some clues,” the police officer told Martin.
   a. can’t      b. might        c. must
6. “I ________________ left the door open this morning, could I?” Martin asked himself.
   a. must have  b. can’t        c. couldn’t have

   OUTCOME MET: use modals of possibility in the past, present, and future

C Answer the questions with complete sentences.

1. What do you think happened at Martin’s house? _____________________________________________

2. What theories do you have about a famous mystery, such as an unsolved crime, an ancient monument, or an unexplained phenomenon? Explain your idea(s). ____________________________________________________________________________

   OUTCOME MET: speculate about mysteries
Use the prompts to write responses with modals of possibility.

**Example:**

I didn’t receive an e-mail from Megan.
(weaker certainty): You might have told her the wrong e-mail address.

1. What caused the car accident?
   (strong certainty): ______________________________________________________________________________________

2. How is your new job?
   (impossibility): ______________________________________________________________________________________

3. I can’t find my keys anywhere!
   (strong certainty): ______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Our teacher is not here yet.
   (weaker certainty): ______________________________________________________________________________________

5. He told me not to call him again.
   (impossibility): ______________________________________________________________________________________

**OUTCOME MET:** use modals of possibility in the past, present, and future

**D** Imagine that some strange events occurred last night when the power went out. On a separate piece of paper, write an entry in your blog describing the strange events and the possible causes of the events using modals of possibility and words from the box.

**E**

**Video**

**A** Watch the video and check (✓) True or False. Then correct the false sentences.

1. Stonehenge is an ancient monument in England.  
   (True)  (False)  

2. Pearson believes that his team has found the settlement where the people who built Stonehenge lived.  
   (True)  (False)  

3. Durrington Walls was a small community with less than one hundred homes.  
   (True)  (False)  

4. The wood structures were for the living and the stone structures were for the dead.  
   (True)  (False)  

5. Stonehenge was not a cemetery according to Pearson.  
   (True)  (False)  

**B** Answer the questions based on the video. Use modals of possibility in your answers.

1. What do you think about Pearson’s theory that Stonehenge was part of a larger complex on Salisbury Plain?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

2. How important is it to try to solve mysteries about ancient structures?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
Writing

A Choose one of the photos and write down as many words as you can to describe what you see.

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

B Think of a story that explains the mystery in your photo. Make notes about the main details of the story for each *wh*-word. Use some of the words from Exercise A.

1. Who? ______________________________________
2. What? ______________________________________
3. When? ______________________________________
4. Where? ______________________________________
5. Why? ______________________________________
6. How? ______________________________________

OUTCOME MET: use *wh*-questions to help you plan a story

C Now imagine that you are making a documentary film about the mystery. Tell your story using the details from Exercise B.

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OUTCOME MET: speculate about mysteries
Lost at Sea

On March 7, 1533, a trading ship named the *Bom Jesus*—the *Good Jesus*—set sail from Portugal. It was sailing to India for spices. But it never arrived. And no one knows exactly what happened.

The ship was lost for almost five hundred years. Then, in 2008, a copper ingot was found on a beach in Namibia, Africa. The ingot was the type that Europeans traded for spices in India in the first half of the sixteenth century.

This one copper ingot led archaeologists to a sunken ship 20 feet below sea level, where they found 22 tons of these ingots beneath the sand.

“If it hadn’t been for those copper ingots weighing everything down, there would be nothing left here to find,” says Bruno Werz, director of the Southern African Institute of Maritime Archaeology. “Five centuries of storms and waves would have washed everything away.”

These ingots were a clue to the ship’s identity and voyage. The great quantity of ingots suggests the ship was on its way to India to trade for spices rather than returning to Portugal.

There were also more than two thousand heavy gold coins. One special coin, the portugueses, was a clue that helped archaeologists solve another piece of the mystery. The archaeologists had a theory that the ship was Portuguese and must have sailed between 1525 and 1538, because that was when the portugueses were minted, and many were found in the shipwreck.

Portuguese shipping records show that twenty-one ships were lost between 1525 and 1600, but only one ship disappeared near Namibia—the *Bom Jesus*, which sailed in 1533 and was “lost on the turn of the Cape of Good Hope.”

One theory says that the ship may have encountered a huge storm as it was sailing around the cape. In the aftermath the ship may have gotten lost and far off course. A further theory speculates that strong winds and ocean currents could have driven the ship hundreds of miles toward the coast, where it eventually hit rocks and sank.

Did anyone survive? Archaeologists uncovered the bones of only one person in the shipwreck. Also very few personal possessions were found among the artifacts. These details led archaeologists to believe that nearly everyone on the ship made it to land.

And then what? The coast is sandy with little vegetation, but there is a river only 16 miles away. The survivors could have eaten shellfish, seabird eggs, and desert snails. People who would have been living in this part of Africa in 1533 were hunter-gatherers. Perhaps they taught the Portuguese how to survive. But that is still a mystery.

*ingot* metal made into a shape that is easy for transport, such as gold bars
A  Underline the theories described in the reading.

B  Match the place to its description based on the reading.

1. ___ The destination of the *Bom Jesus*.  
   a. Portugal
2. ___ The place where the *Bom Jesus* got lost.  
   b. India
3. ___ The place from which the *Bom Jesus* set sail.  
   c. Namibia
4. ___ The place near the shipwreck of the *Bom Jesus*.  
   d. the Cape of Good Hope

C  Answer the questions with your own ideas.

1. The article says that few personal possessions were found in the shipwreck. Why is this clue important to the theory that there could have been survivors?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What inferences can you make about the Cape of Good Hope based on the article?

________________________________________________________________________

3. How was trade in the 1500s different than today?

________________________________________________________________________

D  One theory presented in the article is that most people on the *Bom Jesus* survived the shipwreck and made it to land. Write a paragraph that refutes this theory using modals of possibility and phrases such as *It seems unlikely that* . . . and *I doubt that* . . . (see Student Book, page 54).

________________________________________________________________________

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OUTCOMES MET: use modals of possibility in the past, present, and future; refute ideas
Outcomes

A  Respond to the situations using modals of possibility.

1. My cell phone won’t work. ____________________________
2. Joshua said he didn’t hear the phone ring. ____________________________
3. I finally found my keys! ____________________________

How did you do?: On a scale of 1–5 (with 5 being the best), how well did you use modals of possibility in the past, present, and future? ______

B  The article about the Bom Jesus says that twenty-one Portuguese ships were lost at sea between 1525 and 1600. Write a paragraph explaining what could have happened to these ships.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How did you do?: On a scale of 1–5, how well did you speculate about mysteries? ______

C  Refute the statements with complete sentences.

1. The Bom Jesus was attacked by pirates. ____________________________
2. Stonehenge was created by aliens. ____________________________
3. Crop circles are a man-made phenomenon. ____________________________

How did you do?: On a scale of 1–5, how well did you refute ideas? ______

D  Imagine that you are going to write a story about the survivors of the Bom Jesus. Answer the wh- questions to help you think of the main details of the story.

1. What happened to the survivors? ____________________________
2. Where did it happen? ____________________________
3. How did they survive? ____________________________
4. Why didn’t anyone know about it? ____________________________

How did you do?: On a scale of 1–5, how well did you use wh- questions to help you plan a story? ______