

2 Mysteries of the World

- Reading:** article, missing sentences
Vocabulary: mystery-related words, phrasal verbs, word formation
Grammar: past simple, past continuous, *used to*, *would*, *be used to* & *get used to*
Listening: multiple-choice questions
Speaking: talking about mysteries, decision making, persuading & convincing
Writing: story, using adjectives and adverbs



An unusual fountain at Leper, Ypres, Belgium – a solitary tap, suspended in mid-air and running continuously

Close-Up B1+ Upper Intermediate Unit 2

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2 Mysteries of the World

Reading

A The places and things below are all associated with mysteries. What do you know about them?

- Lost City of Atlantis
- Bermuda Triangle
- Easter Island Statues
- Nazca Lines
- Stonehenge

B Quickly read the text about the Maya and match the descriptions a-e with each of the paragraphs 1-5.

- a Look at theories about another place in detail.
- b Say why the mystery of the Maya will be researched in the future.
- c Look at a theory about what happened in one place in detail.
- d Introduce the Maya, their habitat and their disappearance.
- e Talk about different theories that archaeologists have about what happened to the Maya.

Wordwise

rainforest: a forest in a tropical area where there is a lot of rain

Native Americans: people who have been living in North and South America since well before Europeans arrived

embrace: to surround or enclose something

wipe out: destroy something completely

overpopulated: having too many people for the amount of food and space available

epidemic: a large number of people suffering from the same disease at the same time

A monolith statue, Easter Island, Polynesia



The Mystery of the Maya By Guy Gugliotta

Journey to Central America to explore one of history's great puzzles



Temple II, also known as the Temple of the Masks, Tikal, Guatemala

A lost world lies hidden deep within the **rainforests** of Central America. Hundreds of cities and towns stand among the trees. These used to be home to millions of **Native Americans** known as the Maya, who lived in the Central American jungle for approximately 3,000 years. They built an incredible civilisation which was at its peak for about 750 years. For many of the settlements in the southern lowlands, this peak ended about 1,000 years ago. **1** Trees and vines **embrace** the once proud temples and palaces, which are now in ruins.

So what happened to these people? Their disappearance is considered one of the biggest mysteries in archaeology. Did they abandon their beautiful cities, or did some disaster **wipe them out**? For decades, archaeologists have been trying to discover what happened, and there is still no agreement. Theories range from the invasion of foreign forces and migration to disease and the collapse of an **overpopulated** society. **2** Others think that an **epidemic** caused thousands of deaths. New evidence has recently been brought to light by an investigation into the layers of mud at the bottom of a lake in the region. This suggests that a long-lasting drought was an important factor in their disappearance. However, there are so many possibilities that many researchers now believe that it was a combination of two or more of these things that caused the downfall.

To examine some of the theories about what happened to the Maya, I went to Central America. I visited Mayan cities and talked to the archaeologists who were studying them. One very hot day, I stood on a riverbank near the ruins of Cancuen, which was once a thriving city. Thousands of Maya

Close-Up



When you do a missing-sentences task, you should look for linking words and phrases that connect the missing sentences with the sentences that come before and after the gap. These might be determiners like personal pronouns, the words *this* and *that*; expressions which add something to what has just been said; or expressions that show contrast, agreement or sequence.

C Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A There just wasn't enough food for the residents.
- B It was decorated with red tiles and had once held drinking water for the city.
- C For example, some think a natural disaster like an earthquake or a volcanic eruption occurred.
- D Today the Maya's cities are empty.
- E This drought and warfare probably shook the people's faith in their king.
- F During my visit, it certainly captured mine.

used to live there and rich people from other cities would go there for holidays. But that all changed 1,200 years ago. Archaeologists think that invaders came suddenly, probably by canoe. They may have battled with soldiers by the river before heading into the city centre. I followed the path they would have taken and came across an amazing palace next to the ruins of a large pool. **3** Then, it became a tomb. The invaders killed the city's leaders and threw their bodies into the water. The invasion must have been quick and terrifying. The city's people were probably so scared that they fled into the rainforest.

I learnt a different story in another place that I visited, the great city of Tikal. About 55,000 people lived there once, and the city boasted roughly 3,000 major buildings. Tikal remained a lively city for decades after Cancuen fell, but eventually it was also abandoned. Why? Archaeologists think the city suffered a drought that made it hard to grow corn, beans, squash and the other foods which were important in the diet of the Maya. Warfare may also have weakened the society as the people of Tikal battled with neighbouring cities. **4** The Maya thought of their rulers as gods. When the king couldn't bring rain or victory, though, people may have stopped listening to him, and their community then fell apart.

Whatever the cause of the Maya's disappearance, their downfall will continue to capture people's imagination for many years to come. **5** While I was wandering among the pyramids and temples at Tikal, I imagined the people living there in the city's last days. I could picture them hungry, tired and scared, fleeing from their homes. Like the Maya in many places in the rainforests of Central America, they left behind a great city and a great mystery.

Get the meaning!

D Complete the sentences with these verbs in the correct form.

abandon boast bring flee suffer weaken

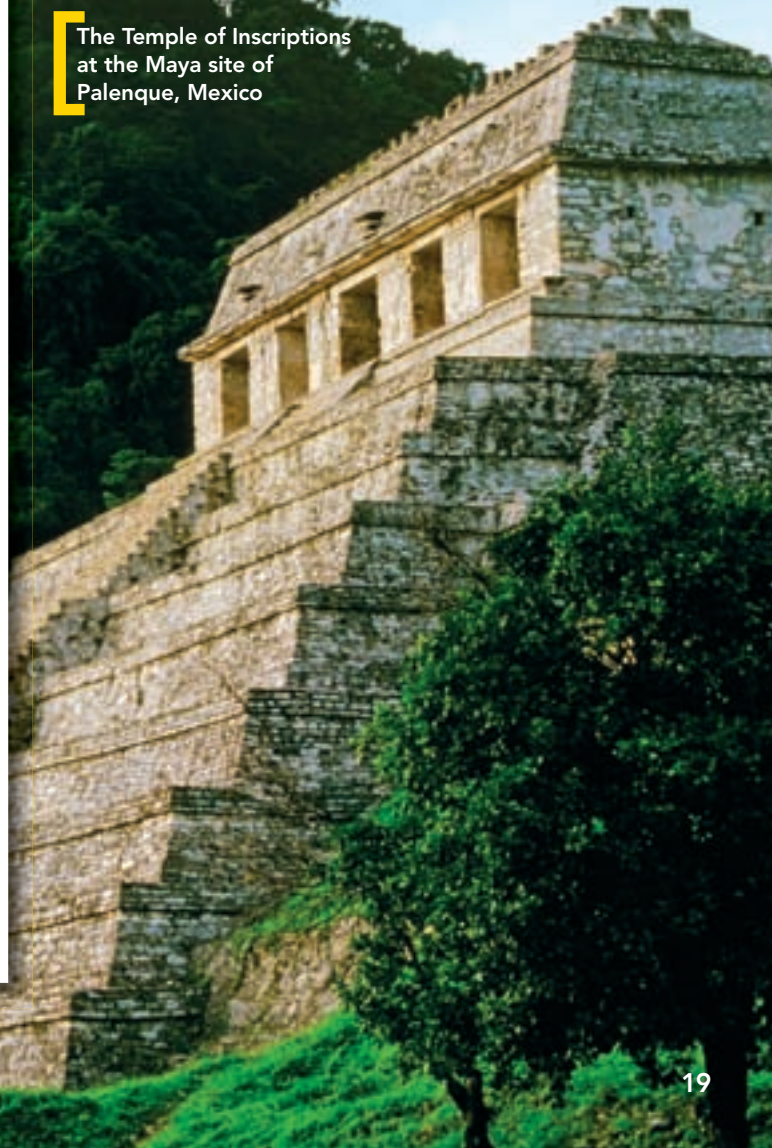
- 1 A bad diet will seriously _____ your body.
- 2 The robbers _____ to the mountains to escape the police.
- 3 Did the archaeologist _____ new evidence to light?
- 4 The king's men _____ a defeat in battle.
- 5 The villagers _____ their homes and ran into the forest.
- 6 The castle _____ sixteen bedrooms and ten bathrooms.



What do you think?

- Can you think of any mysteries in your country? What are they?
- Why are people so fascinated by mysteries?

The Temple of Inscriptions at the Maya site of Palenque, Mexico



2 Mysteries of the World

Vocabulary

A Match these words 1-8 with their definitions a-h.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 occurrence <input type="checkbox"/> | a something we see that seems to be real but actually isn't |
| 2 phenomenon <input type="checkbox"/> | b something that helps you to solve a mystery |
| 3 hoax <input type="checkbox"/> | c something made of stone where a dead body is placed |
| 4 clue <input type="checkbox"/> | d something that happens |
| 5 illusion <input type="checkbox"/> | e a news story about something that has happened |
| 6 report <input type="checkbox"/> | f a fact or event in nature or society, usually one not fully understood |
| 7 tomb <input type="checkbox"/> | g a person who solves mysteries or crimes |
| 8 detective <input type="checkbox"/> | h a trick someone uses to fool others |

B Complete the sentences using both words.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 cemetery disappearance
Experts are still confused by the _____ of the body from a grave in the _____. | 4 cave legend
An ancient Native American _____ says that the _____ is haunted by spirits. |
| 2 odd abandoned
That's _____. There's a light shining in the window of that old _____ house. | 5 theories myths
Your _____ about the Mayan civilisation are good ones, but you have to support them with something more than _____. |
| 3 trick magician
Don't let the _____ fool you; when he cuts the lady in the box in half, it's only a _____. | 6 evidence archaeologist
Does the _____ have any real _____ that the Egyptian pyramids were built by creatures from outer space? |

C Complete the text with these words.

aliens incidences investigated mysterious
practical jokes researchers solved witnesses

One of earth's little mysteries

We all know that the earth can be a(n) (1) _____ place at times. All over the world, strange things happen and often even experts cannot explain why or how they occur. Take crop circles for example. While some people believe that these circles are created by people playing (2) _____, most (3) _____ feel that there is something more 'earthy' about the circles' creators. In most (4) _____, they believe that it is 'human' (5) _____ who are responsible for the patterns, not green men travelling in UFOs.

In one case that experts (6) _____, it was discovered that two men from Southampton, England had designed the 12-metre circle which suddenly appeared in a local farmer's field one day. When questioned by police, they denied being involved, but several (7) _____ came forward and that particular crop circle mystery was quickly (8) _____.



D Do you agree with these statements? Compare your answers with a partner's.

- Most bizarre **phenomena** can be explained by scientific evidence.
- People who play **practical jokes** and waste the time of the emergency services should be punished.
- There have been **incidences** of **aliens** visiting our planet.
- **Researchers** shouldn't waste their time **investigating** reports of ghosts and spirits.

Past Simple

A Match each sentence with one use of the Past Simple.

- We watched a documentary on the Pyramids and wrote a report about it.
- James woke up at four o'clock every morning.
- Agatha Christie wrote 80 detective stories in her lifetime.

We can use the Past Simple for

- an action or situation which started and finished in the past.
- actions which happened one after the other in the past.
- past routines and habits.

Past Continuous

B Match each sentence with one use of the Past Continuous.

- While the policeman was collecting the evidence, a reporter arrived to ask some questions.
- Some children were playing ball and others were skating. Then suddenly an explosion was heard.
- I was reading about the crop circles while my brother was watching a DVD.
- The detective was investigating the crime scene at ten o'clock this morning.

We can use the Past Continuous for

- an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.
- two or more actions that were in progress at the same time in the past.
- an action that was in progress in the past that was interrupted by another action.
- to give background information in a story.

Be careful!

Remember that we don't use stative verbs in continuous tenses.

Read 2.1-2.2 of the Grammar Reference on page 163 before you do the tasks.



A sculpture garden at Coral Castle, Florida, US

C Complete the text with the correct form of the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Coral Castle

The amazing Coral Castle in Florida was the creation of one very clever man named Edward Leedskalnin. Leedskalnin (1) _____ (immigrate) to America in the early twentieth century and (2) _____ (spend) most of his life building Coral Castle. To build the castle, he (3) _____ (move) huge stone blocks all by himself. How he did this is a mystery because he (4) _____ (not allow) anyone to watch while he (5) _____ (work).

One of Leedskalnin's most spectacular creations was a nine-ton revolving door. The door was so well-balanced that it (6) _____ (open) with the push of a finger. Nobody could understand how this worked until the door (7) _____ (break) in 1986. While engineers (8) _____ (repair) it, they found that Leedskalnin had put a part of a truck called a bearing in the centre. The engineers (9) _____ (replace) the bearing, but the door no longer opens as easily as it did originally.

In December 1951, Leedskalnin (10) _____ (realise) that he (11) _____ (suffer) from an illness and he put a notice on the gate of Coral Castle which said 'Going to the hospital'. Unfortunately, he (12) _____ (die) there three days later, but his memory lives on in his creation, which tourists can still visit.

D Complete the sentences with the correct form of the Past Simple or the Past Continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- _____ the archaeologists _____ the site when they _____ some gold coins? (excavate, find)
- The children _____ what the historian _____. (not understand, say)
- I _____ to South America last month, but I _____ the opportunity to see the Nazca Lines. (travel, not have)
- _____ the famous writer mysteriously _____ before he _____ his latest novel? (disappear, finish)
- It _____ when the bizarre accident _____. (rain, happen)

2 Mysteries of the World

Listening

A Match the words to the meanings.

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> | a | facts or objects which make you think something is true |
| 2 | disappearance | <input type="checkbox"/> | b | something we don't fully know or understand |
| 3 | evidence | <input type="checkbox"/> | c | a decision about something after having taken into account all facts |
| 4 | theory | <input type="checkbox"/> | d | an idea you have that tries to explain something |
| 5 | conclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> | e | the act of leaving secretly or without explanation |

B Listen to these speakers and decide whether the sentences below are true or false. Write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The woman knows for certain what happened.
- 2 We know what happened to the two men.
- 3 The scientist's theory was correct.
- 4 The experts know what happened in this case.



Close-Up

The answers appear in the same order as the questions. If you can't answer a question, leave it so that you don't miss the information for the next questions. Then go back and try to answer the question(s) you missed. Never leave a question unanswered and if you need to, just guess.

C You will hear a radio interview about a mystery on Mount Everest. For questions 1-6 choose the best answer (a, b or c).

- 1 Mallory and Irvine made the climb up Everest in
 - a 1924.
 - b 1929.
 - c 1953.
- 2 We know that Mallory and Irvine
 - a climbed at least 8,000 metres up Everest.
 - b reached the summit of Everest.
 - c were on the way back down when they died.
- 3 Some people think Mallory reached the summit because
 - a they found photos of the summit on his body.
 - b his wife's photo was found at the summit.
 - c his wife's photo was not on his body.
- 4 The discovery of Mallory's goggles
 - a tells us that it must have been dark when he died.
 - b tells us what the weather must have been like when he died.
 - c doesn't tell us enough to solve the mystery.
- 5 Matt Stevens thinks Mallory and Irvine
 - a definitely reached the summit.
 - b probably reached the summit.
 - c probably didn't reach the summit.
- 6 Matt thinks that Mallory probably fell because
 - a his body had a rope attached to it.
 - b his body was covered in snow.
 - c his camera was found with his body.



In 1999 an avalanche in the Himalayas killed climber Alex Lowe, pictured above in Antarctica, and badly hurt Conrad Anker, the discoverer of Mallory's body.

Speaking

A Work with a partner and answer these questions.

- When you think of mysteries, what comes to mind?
- Do you like mysteries? Why?/Why not?
- What is your favourite mystery novel, film or TV programme? Why do you like it?

B Read the sentences below and decide which you would use to agree (A), disagree (D) or partly agree (P) with an opinion.

- 1 You're absolutely right.
- 2 I don't think that's entirely true.
- 3 How can you say that?
- 4 That's exactly what I think.
- 5 I agree with you up to a point.
- 6 I'm afraid I don't agree.
- 7 I agree entirely.



Close-Up

Don't just give one-word answers; explain and justify your answer as this will make your conversation more natural. If your partner doesn't have much to say, try to get feedback from your partner to see if he or she agrees or disagrees with what you are saying.

C Imagine that you and your friends want to solve a mystery. Someone keeps spraying graffiti on the outside of your school at night and you want to find out who it is without being seen. First, talk together about the different items you can use to solve the mystery. Then, decide which two objects would be the most useful. Remember to use the *Useful Expressions*.



Speak Up!

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Why do you think people are interested in mysteries?
- What qualities does a good detective need?
- Is a good mystery one where you can't predict the ending? Why?/Why not?
- How are mystery books different from history books?
- If you were to write a mystery novel, what would it be about?

Useful Expressions

Persuading and convincing

But don't you think that ... is a really good idea?
 Surely, using ... won't make that much of a difference.
 ... is a good idea, isn't it?
 I'm sure you'd agree that ... would help solve the mystery.

Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs

A Match the phrasal verbs to their meanings.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 make out | <input type="checkbox"/> | a make a certain sound |
| 2 look into | <input type="checkbox"/> | b examine facts and information |
| 3 stick to | <input type="checkbox"/> | c only talk about one subject |
| 4 take in | <input type="checkbox"/> | d manage to see something |
| 5 let out | <input type="checkbox"/> | e trick, deceive |
| 6 believe in | <input type="checkbox"/> | f be sure that something exists |

B Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs from A.

- It was so dark in the room that I couldn't _____ where anything was.
- Carrie _____ a loud scream when she thought she saw the Yeti!
- Do you _____ UFOs? I certainly do because I've seen one!
- I wasn't _____ by his pretending to be a ghost.
- Tell me exactly what happened and please try to _____ the facts.
- The detective _____ the case, but he couldn't find any clues to help him.

Word formation

C Complete the text with the correct form of the words.

It's raining cats and frogs!

When it is pouring with rain, we often say, 'it's raining cats and dogs' which sounds totally (1) _____, but sometimes it's not too far from the truth! (2) _____ rain is a very bizarre phenomenon, but it's been reported from all corners of the globe. Scientists have come up with some interesting (3) _____ for the strange rain, but haven't been able to prove any of them so far. Let's have a look at a few of the strangest occurrences. In 1981, the citizens of Nafplio in Greece woke up to a (4) _____ sight. Hundreds of small green frogs were falling from the sky! There was another strange (5) _____ that added to the mystery. The frogs were not ones usually found in Greece. They were native to North Africa! (6) _____, a town in southern Tasmania experienced something rather strange one night in 1996. After a thunderstorm, the people of the town found everything outside covered in a (7) _____ white substance. Scientists quickly came to the (8) _____ that it had been raining fish eggs or jellyfish! Reports of strange rain don't always involve animals though. In 1857, in Lake County, California, the (9) _____ had a sweet treat! For two nights in a row, it rained sugar crystals! The locals made the best of the (10) _____ by making syrup from the sugar!

RIDICULE

USUAL

EXPLAIN

REMARK

DISCOVER

SIMILAR

STICK
CONCLUDE

RESIDE

SITUATE



D Do you agree with these statements? Discuss with a partner.

- I don't **believe in** ghosts! They just don't exist.
- There must be a **logical explanation** for every mystery. We just haven't found them all yet.
- I think it's a waste of time for scientists to spend time **looking into** whether aliens exist or not.

Used to, Would, Be used to & Get used to

A Look at the sentences and answer the questions below.

- My dad used to be an archaeologist when he lived in Egypt.
- Brian would read mystery novels when he was on holiday.
- The detective is used to investigating mysteries.
- The new police officer is getting used to his duties.

Which sentence refers to

- something that is usual or familiar?
- an activity in the past?
- a state in the past?
- the process of something becoming familiar?

Complete the rule with **used to** or **would**.

_____ can be used to talk about states or repeated actions in the past, but _____ can only be used to talk about repeated actions in the past. It can't be used to talk about states.

Complete the rules with **be used to** or **get used to**.

We use _____ to talk about actions or states that are becoming familiar to us. We use _____ to talk about actions or states that are usual or familiar.

Read 2.3-2.4 of the Grammar Reference on page 163 before you do the tasks.

B Tick the correct sentences and correct the wrong ones in your notebooks.

- My neighbour used to disappear for days at a time.
- Did your dad use to watch *Dr Who* when he was a young boy?
- Would they live in that haunted house before moving to our street?
- Penelope would to look into every strange occurrence that she heard about.
- I didn't used to pay attention when my great-aunt told me about her adventures.
- Michael wouldn't like reading about unexplained mysteries when he was a teenager.

C Choose the correct answers.

- It was difficult, but I slowly got used to ___ in the sun at archaeological sites.
a to work b to working c working
- My history teacher ___ go on and on about the Mayan civilization.
a was getting used to b was used to c would
- Were ___ answering questions about the exhibits when you worked at the museum?
a you used to b you get used to c you use to
- I ___ archaeology before I became a teacher.
a used to studying b used to study c use to study
- John ___ hearing about amazing places because his father is an explorer.
a is used to b would c used to
- ___ live in Cairo when you were doing your research?
a Did you get used to b Did you use to c Would you

D Complete the second sentences so they have a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the words in bold.

- Tom used to read anything about the Bermuda Triangle. **would**
Tom _____ anything about the Bermuda Triangle.
- The children quickly adjusted to their new school. **got**
The children quickly _____ their new school.
- Jenny is worried that she won't be able to adapt to the Peruvian lifestyle. **used**
Jenny is worried that she _____ the Peruvian lifestyle.
- At first it was difficult to use the Internet to find information, but now it's much easier. **am**
Now, I _____ the Internet to find information.
- Would your lecturer analyse the possible reasons for the disappearance of the dinosaur? **to**
Did your lecturer _____ analyse the possible reasons for the disappearance of the dinosaur?

Writing

Using adjectives and adverbs

Improve your stories by using descriptive adjectives and adverbs of time, place, manner and degree. They help the reader to build up a clearer picture of the people, places and events in the story, as well as to add drama and suspense. Remember:

- when we use two or more adjectives together, they usually come in this order: opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material.
- when we use adjectives ending in *-ed* we describe how someone is affected by something, whereas adjectives ending in *-ing* describe how someone or something affects others.
- when we use more than one adverb in a sentence, they usually come in this order: manner, place, time. But when there is a verb of movement (eg *go, run, walk*) they come in this order: place, manner, time.



A Circle the correct words.

- 1 He ran **outside quickly** / quickly outside.
- 2 It had been the most **thrilling** / thrilled day of their lives.
- 3 She wrapped the present using a **long red silk** / silk red long ribbon.
- 4 They sat **opposite silently** / silently opposite the odd statue.
- 5 Inside the box, was a(n) **unusual orange metallic** / orange unusual metallic toy.
- 6 Everyone was **embarrassing** / embarrassed when the story was leaked to the press.

B Read the writing task below and underline the key words. What will you write? Who will be the main character?

Write a story which begins with this sentence: *It was the scariest thing she had ever seen.*

C Read the model story and complete it with these adjectives and adverbs.

carefully certain enthusiastically green nervously suddenly weird young

It was the scariest thing she had ever seen. As a photographer, Jodie was used to seeing (1) _____ and wonderful things, but she had never seen anything like this.

She was working on a story about mysteries and had heard that a local forest was haunted. Her colleague Robert was keen to go there and he (2) _____ agreed to camp there with her. But after camping out for three nights, they had seen nothing extraordinary.

Then, at midnight on the last night, moving green lights (3) _____ appeared among the trees. Jodie took out her camera and started taking photos. She didn't know what the lights were, but they looked very strange. 'I have to get them on film,' she thought.

When Jodie arrived home, she headed for the dark room. She hung up the first photo (4) _____ and stared at it in astonishment. Bright (5) _____ lights formed a circle round the trees. But the most bizarre thing was the (6) _____ boy who stood in the middle. Jodie was (7) _____ he hadn't been there.

Picking up the phone, she tried to stop herself from trembling. 'He-hello, Robert,' she stammered (8) _____. 'I think you'd better come over here right now.'

Look again

D Read the model story again and answer these questions.

- 1 What was the scary thing that Jodie saw?
- 2 Do we find this out immediately after the first sentence?
- 3 Where was she when she saw the thing that scared her?
- 4 How does Jodie feel about what she saw?
- 5 Why do you think she wants Robert to go to her house?

E Write the correct paragraph number from the model story next to these descriptions.

- a Bring the story to an end.
- b Describe the background to the story.
- c Describe the scary thing in detail.
- d Introduce an event that adds suspense to the story.
- e Start with the sentence given and introduce the main character.

F Look at the *Useful Expressions* and circle the correct answers.

- 1 Is this real or is it ____?
a an optical illusion b out of the ordinary c bizarre
- 2 I stared at him in ____.
a mystery b disbelief c sight
- 3 I can't understand this. It's absolutely ____.
a odd b unusual c inexplicable
- 4 I'm really ____ by this experience.
a chilled b eerie c thrilling
- 5 The story is strange, but ____.
a mysterious b true c curious

Over to you!

G Read the writing task below and make a paragraph plan for your story. Remember to include adjectives and adverbs to add suspense and to help the reader build up a clear picture.

Write a story which begins with this sentence: *As soon as they opened the door, they knew something was wrong.* (120-180 words)



Close-Up

When you have finished writing your story, read through it to check that it reads well. Use this check list to help you:

- 1 Has the story got a beginning, a middle and an end?
- 2 Does the sentence given make sense in relation to the rest of the story?
- 3 Are the paragraphs clearly organised?
- 4 Have I used narrative tenses?
- 5 Does the story include interesting details?
- 6 Have I edited spelling and grammar mistakes?

Useful Expressions

Describing mysteries

be out of the ordinary/unusual
bizarre/strange/extraordinary sight/sound
chilled/chilling
curious
eerie
fascinating
in astonishment/disbelief
incredible
inexplicable
mysterious
mystery
odd
optical illusion
out of this world
strange, but true
strange phenomena/occurrence
thrilling/thrilled
weird and wonderful





Before you watch

A How much do you know about some of the famous mysteries of the world? Complete the sentences using these words.

Bigfoot Devil's Nessie Yeti

- _____ is an affectionate nickname given to the Loch Ness Monster.
- The _____ Triangle is the name some people give to the Bermuda Triangle.
- The Abominable Snowman, or _____, is said to live in the Himalayan region.
- Has anybody ever really photographed Sasquatch, otherwise known as _____?

While you watch

B Watch the DVD again and circle the words you hear.

- The best place to see this mystery is at the **viewing / watching** site, just east of Marfa.
- What do the lights look like? Well, it **changes / depends** on who you talk to.
- The appearance and **disappearance / vanishing** of the lights was seen by pilots flying here.
- 'We discovered these by **mistake / chance** off in the distance, close to the ground.'
- But who can explain where the lights come from? Where are they actually **located / situated**?
- If the mystery is unanswered, people will keep **searching / investigating**.

After you watch

C Complete the summary of the DVD below using these words.

divide head off investigate phenomenon proof ranch reported response section shining

The Chihuahuan Desert in West Texas is the largest desert in North America. Winters are cool and summers are extremely hot. This area is also home to a mysterious (1) _____ called the 'Marfa Lights'. These are bright lights that appear suddenly in the night sky and then, just as quickly, they (2) _____ into the distance and disappear. Sometimes they (3) _____ into more than two lights. They appear in the same (4) _____ of the desert – near a town called Marfa. The lights sometimes even get close to people's houses. One woman who lived on a remote (5) _____ tells the story of what she experienced one night. She got in bed and suddenly she saw the lights (6) _____ through her bedroom window. She watched them change colour for a few minutes. Eventually they went away. Apparently, pilots who used to train in the desert in the 1940s also (7) _____ that they used to see these mysterious lights.



What causes the lights? Fritz Kahl, who was one of those pilots, thinks he has a(n) (8) _____ to this question. He believes that the lights are a natural occurrence and that they exist all over the world. However, as long as the Marfa mystery remains unanswered, people will continue to (9) _____ the lights to find out where they come from and how long they have existed. People want (10) _____, not opinions and theories. Whatever these lights really are, they are as mysterious today as when they first appeared and it is doubtful that the mystery behind them will ever be solved.

D Discuss these questions with a partner.

- What do else do you know about the mysteries mentioned in A?
- Would you like to visit a place where a famous mystery exists? Why?/Why not?
- Are there any famous mysteries in your country?