

1. The unexplained

This week's lesson looks at unexplained phenomena such as ghosts, UFOs and psychic powers.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Make sure the students understand the word 'unexplained', then brainstorm on the subject (preferably without giving away all the vocabulary introduced in the first exercise). Out of the various phenomena often deemed to be unexplained, which (if any) do the students believe in? Have any of them ever had any unexplained experiences themselves?

2. Divide the students into pairs, then hand out Worksheet A. Give the students a few minutes to do Exercise 1, in which they have to match the words in the table to the definitions.

3. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. ghost 2. UFO (unidentified flying object) 3. haunted 4. dream 5. imagination 6. spooky 7. psychic 8. alien

4. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and give the students five to ten minutes to read through the text, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. You could ask if they agree or disagree with any of the characters, and also draw their attention to the fact that the French expression 'déjà vu' is commonly used in English.

5. When the time is up, hand out copies of Worksheet C and give the students a few minutes to do Exercise 2, in which they have to answer true/false/doesn't say comprehension questions.

6. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. F 2. F 3. T 4. D 5. T 6. D 7. F 8. T 9. F 10. T

7. Finally, move on to Exercise 3, in which students complete the crossword.

8. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. followed 2. psychics 3. believe 4. haunted 5. fast 6. science 7. dream 8. before

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *flying saucer* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related websites

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4710000/newsid_4718100/4718143.stm

A BBC *Newsround* forum with an invitation to 'Tell us your spooky stories!' Aimed primarily at children and younger teenagers. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.theunexplained.org/>

A website entitled *The Unexplained*, including material on ghosts, UFOs (with video footage!), monsters, etc. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/5017910.stm>

A BBC article (2006) on a survey which suggests that more than half of Britons believe in psychic powers such as mind-reading and premonitions. Intermediate level and above.