



You Wouldn't Believe Me If I Told You

Lesson Objective

Upon completion of this lesson you will be able to **discuss unexplainable and unbelievable events.**

Expression Check

- ✓ There's no way you're going to believe this, but ...
- ✓ Have you ever had that feeling you're not alone?
- ✓ Call me crazy, but I think I saw something.

1. Warm Up Activity

Talk about the questions.

- 1 Have you ever had the feeling that you have seen or done something before?
- 2 Do you sometimes get the feeling that someone or something is watching you?
- 3 Have you or anyone you know ever had a paranormal experience?

2. Language Practice

Check out slang and idioms and practice useful expressions.

Slang and Idioms

- a) **An urban legend** : a story about an amusing or strange event that is supposed to have happened, which is often repeated and which many people believe is true
- b) **Déjà vu** : the feeling that you have previously experienced something which is happening to you now
- c) **A cock and bull story** : an unbelievable story
- d) **Frighten/scare the (living) day-lights out of someone** : to frighten someone very much

Useful Expressions

- 1 I heard a sound that made my blood run cold.
- 2 There's no way that really happened.
- 3 I thought I'd seen something.
- 4 You can't be serious; you must be pulling my leg.



Role-play

Act out the role-play using the slang and idioms and useful expressions.

Situation

You and your partner share the same commute. You are both returning to work after a few days on vacation and meet up on the subway. You tell your partner about a very strange incident that happened to you during the vacation.

-Story to Tell-


Who : you and your wife

Where : on a lonely country road during the rain

What happened :

- driving a rental car
- stopped to pick up a hitchhiker who rode in the backseat of the car
- the passenger said that you were approaching a dangerous curve in the road which had been the scene of many accidents especially during a rain shower and to be careful
- after safely passing the curve, you turned around to thank your passenger for the advice
- there was no one in the backseat of the car!
- the situation made your blood run cold

3. Key Conversation

 Practice the dialogue and talk about the questions.

Do You Think It Really Happened?

Martha My sister claims to have had the most unbelievable experience.

Sandy I'm not at all surprised; she's so gullible. She's always telling these weird stories.

Martha This time she has outdone herself! But, between you and me, I'm convinced she's pulling my leg.

Sandy OK, well, let me have it. What are you waiting for?

Martha She says that she and her husband were driving home last night, and suddenly, right up ahead, they saw a gigantic cross light up, right out of nowhere.

Sandy Good grief! That must have freaked her out, big time! Especially since she's not a practicing Christian.

Martha Exactly! So, now she's going through a lot of religious introspection. She has even gone so far as to think the "shining cross" was a sort of divine "omen."

Sandy Do you think it really happened? Did she really see it? Sounds like a real cock and bull story to me!

Martha No, as a matter of fact, my husband has demystified the incident. I'll tell you about it at lunch!



Questions

1. Do you think Martha's sister really saw an apparition?
2. What do you think is the explanation for Martha's sister's story?

Do You Believe?

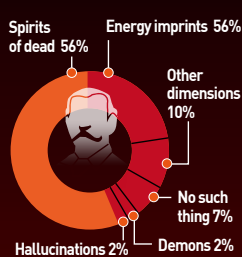
71%
have had a paranormal experience



34%
believe in the existence of ghosts



56%
believe ghosts are spirits of the dead



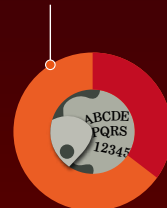
41%
believe in extrasensory perception or ESP









37%
believe that houses can be haunted



65%
believe Ouija boards are dangerous



Belief in the paranormal is common around the world as trends in movies and television programming reflect the widespread interest in the mystical and supernatural. Let's look at paranormal beliefs of people.

Other findings:		Believe in	Not sure about	Do not believe
	Psychic or spiritual healing or the power of the human mind to heal the body	55%	17%	26%
	That people on this earth are sometimes possessed by the devil	42%	13%	44%
	That people can communicate mentally with someone who has died	21%	23%	55%
	Witches	21%	12%	66%
	Reincarnation—the rebirth of the soul in a new body after death	20%	20%	59%
	Channeling/allowing a "spirit being" to temporarily assume control of body	9%	20%	70%

- Q1** Why do you think that many people believe in supernatural phenomena?
- Q2** Among the paranormal beliefs above, which do you think is the most authentic?

4. What Would You Do?

Read the situation and explain what you would do in that situation.

Look! Up in the Sky....

You are driving home after picking your two children up from school. It is a crisp winter day near dusk. Suddenly, one of your children shouts out about something in the sky. You pull over and stop the car, and in fact you and your children all see some strange, bright red lights forming a circle in the sky. Other cars have pulled over, and people are trying to photograph the sight. Suddenly, the lights seem to speed away out of view. You are quick to start the car with the firm intention to drive home. Your kids want you to stop at the nearest police station and file a report on what you have just seen.



What would you do? Would you tell your kids to forget what they have seen, or would you go to the police and file a report?

5. Cultural Discussion Questions

Read the passage and talk about the questions in as much detail as possible.

I Can Talk to the Spirits

Mediums (people who claim to be able to communicate with the spirits of dead people) are popular in Western culture. Some are celebrities, and some even have columns in local newspapers or make appearances on television. Many people believe in their abilities and pay them to contact the spirits of dead relatives by holding séances. Some people go so far as to invite or hire a medium to hold a séance for “fun” at a party. Other people spend a lot of time and money trying to debunk their so-called powers to reveal them as charlatans. Some Eastern religions boast the existence of Shamans to whom similar abilities are attributed.

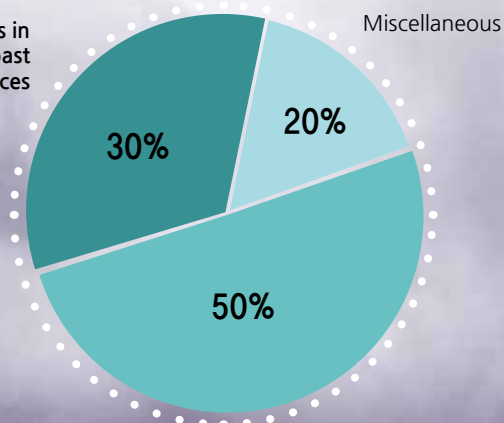
- 1 Do people in your country believe in the ability to communicate with spirits of the dead?
- 2 Would you attend a party if you knew that a séance was going to be held?

Déjà vu! Is It Real?

“Déjà vu” means “already seen” in French. A spiritual science research foundation studied why people go through such kinds of experiences and their root causes.

Spiritual Root Causes Behind Déjà vu

Similar experiences in the past and/or past life experiences



Tuning fork phenomenon

30% Cases: Similar experiences or past life experiences

This relates to identifying the present experience with similar experiences in this lifetime or in previous lifetimes.

50% Cases: Tuning fork phenomenon

Every living and non-living object emits frequencies that contribute to the aura surrounding it. The tuning fork phenomenon relates to when the frequencies of a person's mind temporarily match the frequencies of the minds of other living people or subtle bodies in the afterlife.

Q The study found that frequencies of our minds would match with some 65 people out of the 6.5 billion people on Earth. Have you ever felt that you matched with someone else's mind?

Believe It or Not!

Most Unbelievable Facts That You Do Not Know

- If you are struck by lightning, your skin will be heated to **28,000 degrees** centigrade, hotter than the surface of the Sun.
- The average distance between the stars in the sky is **20 million miles**.
- It would take a modern spaceship **70,000 years** to get to the nearest star to Earth.
- Your body sheds 10 billion flakes of skin every day.
- The Earth weighs **5,973,600,000,000,000,000,000 kg**.
- Every time you sneeze, your **heart stops a second**.
- In space, astronauts **cannot cry** because there is no gravity.
- An ostrich's eye is **bigger than its brain**.
- Humans are born with **350 bones** in their **body**. **However**, when a person reaches adulthood, he or she has only **206 bones**. This occurs because many of them join together to make a single bone.



70,000

Q1 What other unbelievable facts do you know?

Q2 Why do you think many people like to talk about unbelievable facts?

6. If You Ask Me

Read the discussion topic and select the statement that you believe in the most. Then role-play the scenario.

Déjà Vu

Imagine you are visiting Scotland for the first time. You are touring a city, and suddenly it seems as if you have been in that very same spot before. Or maybe you are having dinner with colleagues, discussing a current political topic or last night's soccer match, and you have the feeling that you have already experienced this very thing – same place, same people, same dinner, and same topic. This feeling is called “déjà vu,” a French term which means, literally, “already seen.” Some psychiatrists ascribe it to something in the brain that causes the brain to mistake the present for the past. Many parapsychologists believe it is related to a past-life experience. Déjà vu occurs in individuals with and without a medical issue. Obviously, there is more investigation to be done.

Topic Question

What do you think? Do you support the medical explanation about “something in the brain” – or do you support the “past-life experience” explanation?

Supportive Opinion

VS

Non-Supportive Opinion

Wrapping Up!

Tell four things that you learned from this lesson and review.

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3	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>