

Vocabulary Ex. – Mysteries & Oddities

A. Read the headlines below. Match each event with its corresponding headline. (Activity taken from Comyns, J. Eales, F. and Williams, D. (2004) 100 Strangest Mysteries. MetroBooks. New York, US. P. 24)

a. Falling baby saved twice by the same man...

b. Scientists unable to explain raining fish in Honduras

c. GREAT WALL OF CHINA NOT CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM SPACE, NEW PHOTOS SHOW

d. 'Messages in bottles' discovered on beaches last week turn out to be advertisements

e. UFO's photo not real, admits photographer

h. Face of saint appears in sand in Italian seaside town

f. Missing cruise ship 'cannot be explained' says coastguards' commander

g. Fire survivor says she was woken by ghost of late father

k. Bride slips and falls into lake while posing for wedding photos

i. TV channel shows 'documentary' on flying penguins on 1st April

j. Footballer suffers sudden heart attack in cup final

1 a popular myth

2 a miracle

3 a coincidence

4 a tragic incident

5 a supernatural event

6 an unexplained phenomenon

7 a hoax

8 a practical joke

9 a publicity stunt

10 a mysterious disappearance

11 an unfortunate mishap

B. Unscramble the letters in bold and find the correct word to complete the sentence.

Example: I got really scared when I knew that the movie was filmed in a real **dryaaverg**.

Answer: **graveyard**

1 Last night I was walking towards home when I saw a huge **hdaswo** behind my back.

2 There are lots of myths about people who suck others' blood. Honestly, I don't believe in **sipavmer**.

Author: Andrés Barón-Ávila
MA Education and Technology – UCL – IOE



- 3 When I was younger, I thought that my neighbor's empty house was **dhutaen**.

- 4 I really feel sorry when a **sagcminia'** tricks do not go well in front of their audience.

- 5 In ancient civilizations the **mactlhiy recateurs** played an important role to explain the origin of the world. _____
- 6 **rasmed** were an important part of magical practices. Indeed, the great philosophers paid a lot of attention to them. _____
- 7 Some stories could give us **thingmears**. When an animal in a legend occasionally seems to get the upper hand, the end results still tend to be tragic for the **luknucy** beast.
_____ //

C. Use the verb given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space line.

The first time alien abductions entered the public consciousness was in September 1961 when Barney and Betty Hill were (1) ____ captured by strange beings. The Hills gave an account under hypnosis a few years later that revealed all manner of strange experiments had been performed on them. Betty had (2) ____ the aliens inserted a probe into her belly button, and Barney claims he was forced to provide a sample of his sperm. The one incongruous detail they did provide was that the aliens, rather than (3) ____ large black eyes, actually had 'wraparound' receptors. Sceptics point out that the Hills' testimonies were given less than a fortnight after a television episode about aliens with wraparound eyes.

This factor is one that repeatedly features in (4) ____ stories. The descriptions of aliens and their craft are often identical to stereotypical, 1930s style cosmic invaders. No details have been revealed which could not have been derived from the (5) ____ of a comic book writer. Similarly, no souvenirs have been brought back from any craft visited by humans. However, there are also a few examples featuring extremely (6) ____ physical evidence. One is where a pregnant woman was abducted by aliens who removed her foetus. Although she had previously gone for an ultrasound that had confirmed her unborn children was present and doing fine, when she went to the doctors afterwards, it had simply disappeared. The second (7) ____ involves people who have actually found alien implants in their body. There is even a rumour that a private clinic in California has removed a number of strange implants from abductees' bodies. If these stories are true, there can be no denying that alien (8) ____ leave physical scars on the victim. (Extract taken from Lamy, M. (2004) 100 Strangest Mysteries. MetroBooks. New York, U.S. P. 24)hoax

REPORT _____

SEE _____

HAVE _____

ABDUCT _____

IMAGINE _____

DISTURB _____

EXEMPLIFY _____

MEET _____

