

Unit 1B

Auxiliary verbs & compound adjectives

1) Spooky

NOISES IN THE NIGHT

About six months ago, my husband Russ and I moved into a house in the country. Our house is the middle one of three **terraced** houses and it's more than a hundred years old. A young couple live in the house on our right, but the house on our left was empty and for sale.

We had been living in the house for about two months when we were both suddenly woken up in the middle of the night by a loud noise. We could hear the sound of furniture being moved in the empty house next door. It sounded as if somebody was moving something very heavy, like a table or a bed, by **dragging** it across the floor. I looked at my watch. I said to Russ 'What are they doing moving furniture at this time of the night? It must be the new owners. I'll complain to them tomorrow.' Just then the noise stopped, but five minutes later it started again and this time it **carried on** for several minutes. Finally it stopped completely, and we were able to go back to sleep.

The next morning I rang the doorbell next door, but there was no answer, and when I looked through the **curtains** the house still looked completely empty. I called the **estate agent** and asked him if he had come to the house the previous night to move furniture. He said that he hadn't and he was as mystified as us about the noises.

I asked the estate agent who had lived in the house previously and he told me that an old lady had been living there for many years, but she had suddenly died a few months ago. I don't really believe in ghosts, but Russ and I can find no logical explanation for the noises we heard that night. *Carol, Kent*

Glossary

- 1 /'kʌtɪnz/ *noun* pieces of cloth that are used to cover a window
- 2 /ɪs'teɪt ,eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a person whose job is to sell houses for people
- 3 /'dræɡɪŋ/ *verb* pulling something with effort or difficulty
- 4 /kæərɪd 'ɒn/ *pv* continued
- 5 /'terəst/ *adj* used to describe houses that are joined together in one block

THE STRANGE OBJECT ON THE HILL

This happened when I was 16, and I can still remember it vividly. It was a clear morning, sunny but with a breeze. I was going to meet a school friend to go walking in the hills where there were some wonderful views. I'd agreed to meet him at the top of one of the hills.

I knew those hills really well, but that morning there was a strange shape in the familiar landscape. It was a mile or so to the north, on the top of the next hill. It was a white object and it looked like a dome or an igloo. I was carrying binoculars, so I could see it clearly. It was big, the size of a small house, but it didn't seem to have any doors or windows, and it wasn't moving in spite of the wind.

Then I noticed that some sheep which were on that hill were running away from it. They seemed really frightened.

I kept staring at the dome. Then, suddenly, it began to move. It moved slowly, not in the direction of the wind but almost directly against it. It looked as if it might be gliding a few inches above the grass.

A few seconds later the dome disappeared. I never saw it again. I had watched it for 15 minutes.

When my friend arrived I asked him if he had seen the object, too, but he hadn't. He had been coming from a different direction.

I have told only a few people about what I saw. One of them, a friend of mine who is a doctor, is convinced that I was hallucinating. But I am sure that what I saw wasn't a hallucination. It was really there. *Carl, Winchester*

Glossary

- 1 /dɒm/ *noun* a circular thing or a building with a round roof and a flat base
- 2 /'ɡlaɪdɪŋ/ *verb* moving smoothly and quietly, as if with no effort
- 3 /hə'luːsɪneɪtɪŋ/ *verb* seeing or hearing things that are not really there, because of an illness or drugs

Activity time:

a Complete the mini-dialogues with an auxiliary or modal verb.

A You didn't remember to buy coffee.

B I *did* remember. It's in the cupboard.

1 A He's booked the flights, he?

B Yes, I think so.

2 A It's hot today, it?

B Yes, it's boiling.

3 A Why didn't you go to the meeting?

B I go to the meeting, but I left early.

4 A I wouldn't like to be a celebrity.

B Neither I.

5 A Emma doesn't like me.

B She like you. She just doesn't want to go out with you.

6 A Mike's arriving tomorrow!

B he? I thought he was arriving today.

7 A What did you think of the film?

B Tom liked it, but I . I thought it was awful.

8 A Are you a vegetarian?

B Yes, I am and so my boyfriend.

9 A You'll remember to call me, you?

B Yes, of course!

10 I really want to go to Egypt, but unfortunately my husband

. He hates the heat.

b Complete the conversation with a suitable auxiliary verb.

A You're Tom's sister, ¹*aren't* you?

B Yes, I'm Carla.

A It's a great club, ² it?

B Well, it's OK. But I don't like the music much.

A ³ you? I love it! I've never been here before.

B Neither ⁴ I. I don't go clubbing very often.

A Oh ⁵ you? I ⁶. In fact, I usually go most weekends.

B ⁷ you? I can't afford to go out every weekend.

A I didn't see you at Tom's birthday party last Saturday. Why ⁸ you go?

B I ⁹ go, but I arrived really late because my car broke down.

A Oh, that's why I didn't see you. I left early.

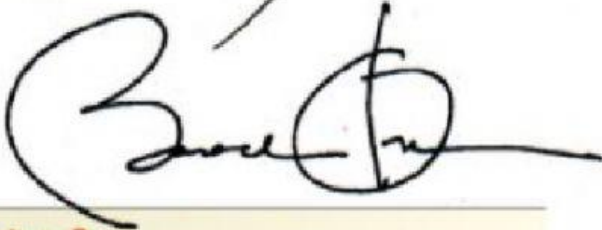
B I fancy a drink. I'm really thirsty after all that dancing.

A So ¹⁰ I. Let's go to the bar.

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Need more practice about auxiliary verbs?

Listening PART II

Leo Talaboy


1 17))) What's in your signature?

Your name = *your private self*

Your surname =

You use only initials either for your
first name or your surname =

There is a space between your name
and surname =





1 18))) The size of your signature

Your first name is bigger than
your surname =

Your surname is bigger than
your first name =

Your whole signature is big =

You sign in capital letters =

Your signature is small =

Charles Dickens

John Doe

1 19))) The legibility of your signature

Your signature is legible =

Your signature is illegible =

The more illegible your signature is...

John Doe

John Doe

John Doe