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INSTITUTO DE INGLÉS
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Name and Surname: .....
PRT - 6TH PLUS Upper-Intermediate **FECHA: June 1st**
READING

1. **Read the article and do the activities below.**

An amazing mind-reader?

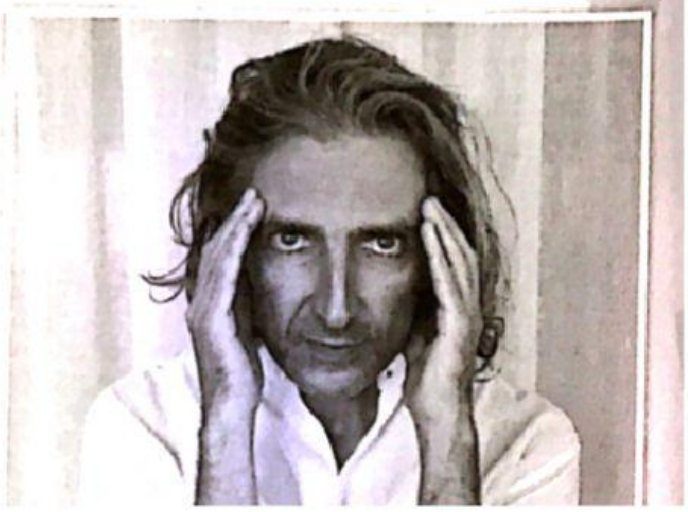
Do you believe that some people have a 'sixth sense', an ability to know things which can't be explained scientifically? Most people say they don't think that mind-reading is really possible. Nevertheless, if you asked the same people whether they wanted to be involved in a mind-reading experiment, and find out what a complete stranger could tell them about themselves, the answer would probably be, 'Oh, go on then!'

1

That's what happened in Brussels, Belgium, on a sunny day in 2012. Researchers stopped passers-by in the street, and asked them whether they would mind taking part in an experiment with a mind-reader. The researchers explained that it was for a TV programme about a man who claimed to have amazing extra-sensory abilities. Curiosity sent queues of people to a huge tent in the city centre, where they waited to meet the man and see what he could tell them about themselves.

2

Dave certainly gave the impression of being an unusual man. Dressed in a white Indian-style outfit, with long wavy grey hair and intense blue eyes, he waved his arms around and jumped up and down as each person took their seat rather nervously. Dave then sat down opposite them and stared into their eyes, or stood behind them, with his hands on their shoulders, clearly feeling their 'vibrations'.



3

Dave told the first girl that she went to a school in Antwerp. 'Yes,' she replied, only a little surprised. A good guess, maybe. He told the second girl that he was 'seeing' insects on her back, and asked if that was possible. 'Yes,' she said, amazed, and explained that she'd had two butterflies tattooed on her back. He told a young man that he had an orange motorbike. 'Spot on!' said the man.

4

The participants began to look a little worried as Dave went on to show that he could 'read' even the deepest secrets of total strangers. He told the next girl that she had an interesting love life. 'I see three, maybe four people,' he said mysteriously. The girl blushed, and admitted that it was true, and pointed out that not a lot of people knew that. When he told another girl that she had spent €300 on clothes the previous month, she was so shocked she couldn't speak! Dave told the next man that he was selling his house, and added, 'for €795,000.' 'Scary,' said the man.

5

So, was this proof that mind-reading is for real? That's certainly what most of the participants were thinking, when suddenly the wall of the tent fell to the floor, revealing four men sitting at computers wearing balaclavas. When the people watched, they realized that the men were finding ways to log into the Facebook and email accounts of all the people in the queue, and a large screen showed the posts, photos and emails that they had found while the people had been waiting outside. Dave was receiving all this information through a tiny speaker inside his ear.

6

The experiment had been set up by a Belgian banking organization called *Febelfin*, to show people the dangers of putting so much of their information online. The experiment was shown in an advert, and the conclusion was clear: 'Your entire life is online. And it might be used against you. Be vigilant.' On their website, *Febelfin* tell people not to write any of their bank details in an email to *anyone*, and to make sure that they have up-to-date antivirus protection.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. **Match headings A-F to paragraphs 1-6.**

A The truth
B Even more amazing
C Lessons to learn
D The Brussels experiment
E Amazing
F Dave, the mind-reader

2. **Answer the questions**

1 Why did the people decide to take part in the experiment?
2 Why was the information about the girl's school not so amazing?
3 Was the girl amazed that Dave knew about her tattoos?
4 Why was one girl so shocked that she couldn't say anything?
5 Why was it useful that the people had to wait in a queue?
6 What was the purpose of the experiment?

3. **Look at the highlighted words and phrases in the article. Then choose the correct meaning for each word or phrase.**

1 go on then!
a OK! b No way!
2 passer-by
a shopper b someone walking past
3 extra-sensory
a beyond normal senses b unusually sensible
4 curiosity
a wanting to know b strangeness
5 intense
a looking closely b strong or extreme
6 spot on
a nearly correct b exactly correct
7 blushed
a looked amazed b went red
8 revealing
a showing b hiding
9 entire
a complete b personal
10 vigilant
a thoughtful b careful

LIVEWORKSHEETS