

Reading no. 2

The truth about Murphy's Law



1. Read the text and complete with the correct form of the verbs in parenthesis.

Have you ever ¹ _____ (drop) a piece of toast and wondered why it always seems to land with the buttered side on the floor? Or, when you leave the house in the morning, have you ever ² _____ (think), "If I ³ _____ (take) an umbrella, it ⁴ _____ (not rain), but if I ⁵ _____ (not take) one, it ⁶ _____ (rain)?" These are examples of Murphy's Law, the law that says, "If something can go wrong, it will." We've all ⁷ _____ (have) experiences like this, but what ⁸ _____ we _____ (should / do) about it?

Well, maybe we ⁹ _____ (not should / worry) too much. Professor Richard Dawkins, at the University of Oxford, doesn't think Murphy's Law is really true. He says that certain things happen all the time, but we only notice them when they cause us problems. Imagine if you ¹⁰ _____ (be) outside filming a video and a noisy plane ¹¹ _____ (fly) by, you ¹² _____ (think) it was Murphy's Law. However, planes fly by all the time. It's only when they cause us a problem that we notice them!

So next time something goes wrong, don't blame Murphy; think positively and try to remember the other times that things went well.

Murphy's Law
ANYTHING
THAT CAN GO WRONG
WILL GO WRONG



2. Match the words with their definitions.

- 1 low land between mountains
- 2 to finish, use, or sell all of something
- 3 to talk together in a friendly way
- 4 to rest for a moment before starting again
- 5 very unhappy
- 6 to stop
- 7 a pain somewhere in your body
- 8 sad because you are alone
- 9 the parts of a tree that are underground
- 10 to explain why something bad happened

- Ache
- Give up
- Take a break
- Make an excuse
- Lonely
- Miserable
- Run out of
- Roots
- Valley
- Have a talk