

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

1 REMEMBER AND CHECK Correct the underlined words. Then check your answers in the text on page 75 of the Student's Book.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 0 Isaac Newton was walking around in his <u>father's</u> garden. | <u>mother's</u> |
| 1 He sat near a tree and an <u>orange</u> fell out of the tree. | _____ |
| 2 Newton then got <u>the book</u> about gravity. | _____ |
| 3 Archimedes was an old <u>Italian</u> man. | _____ |
| 4 One day he got an idea when he was in the <u>shower</u> . | _____ |
| 5 He saw how the <u>amount</u> of water changed when he moved. | _____ |
| 6 Newton saw that gravity also has an effect on the <u>sun</u> . | _____ |
| 7 Archimedes and Newton's discoveries were not complete <u>mistakes</u> . | _____ |

2 Read the article. Tick (✓) the best title.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 Films about science in the 20th century | ☐ | 3 Scientists in horror films | ☐ |
| 2 'Mad scientists' in books and films | ☐ | 4 From <i>Frankenstein</i> to <i>The Fly</i> | ☐ |

Scientists haven't always been seen as very positive figures. In fact, the idea of the 'mad scientist' has been around for a very long time, and it appears in books and films to this day.

Back in the 19th century, Mary Shelley wrote a story about a scientist called Frankenstein who did an experiment in his laboratory because he wanted to show that he could create life from dead things. He takes bits of dead people and he creates ... a monster, of course, that starts to kill people. The Frankenstein story has produced hundreds of film versions – mostly horror films, although there have been one or two comedy ones.

This is the idea of science as something really quite dangerous. Things can – and probably will – go wrong because the scientists don't really know what they're doing. Another example is the film *The Fly*, which was made in 1958 and again in 1986. Here, a scientist wants to



do an experiment on transportation, but it goes wrong when a fly enters the transportation machine with him. He creates a man with parts of a fly's body, and a fly with parts of a man's body. The slogan of the film was *Be afraid. Be very afraid!*

The idea of the 'mad scientist' was especially strong in films in the second half of the 20th century. A survey was done of more than 1,000 horror films from the 1930s to the 1980s.

In 30% of the films, a 'mad scientist' was the bad guy; in 39% of the films, an enormous danger was created by scientific research that went wrong; and the scientist was the hero in only 11% of them.

Sometimes the scientist isn't the bad guy – he's still a bit crazy, but not dangerous. Take Doc in *Back to the Future*, who turns a car into a machine that can travel in time. With his crazy white hair (just like Einstein) and big eyes, he's the genius who makes mistakes but tries hard and is always nice in the end. And in the TV comedy *The Big Bang Theory*, the scientists are nerds but certainly not dangerous.

But the 'mad scientist' idea never goes away altogether. In the 2008 cartoon *Igor*, there's a whole country (called Malaria) that's run by evil scientists. And in the film, the hero, Igor, builds a person from bits and pieces of other people – and there we are, right back to Frankenstein again!

3 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (the text doesn't say).

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 0 The idea of 'mad scientists' isn't a new one. | ☒ |
| 1 All the films about Frankenstein have been horror films. | ☐ |
| 2 The film <i>The Fly</i> has been made twice. | ☐ |
| 3 People were very afraid when they saw <i>The Fly</i> . | ☐ |
| 4 A survey was done of all the horror films from 1930 to 1980. | ☐ |
| 5 Einstein had big eyes. | ☐ |
| 6 In <i>Back to the Future</i> , Doc doesn't get everything right. | ☐ |
| 7 In the cartoon, Igor builds a monster who kills people. | ☐ |

4 Think of another film or TV programme with scientists in it. Are they shown as good or bad? Write a short text (about 50–100 words).

Pronunciation

The /ju:/ sound

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