SPEAKING

1 A Discuss the questions.

1 How do you keep up-to-date with the news?
2 What have been the most important stories in the last five years?

B 2.6 Listen to the excerpts from news reports. Which stories can you see in the photos?

READING

2 A Work in pairs. Read the definition and look at the photos below. Then answer the questions.

> **a conspiracy theory:** /kənˈspɪrəsi ˈθɪəri/ a theory or belief that there was a secret plan behind a major event

From Longman Active Study Dictionary.

1 What do you think the conspiracy theories were about (the events in the photos)?
2 Which story do you think involved a real conspiracy, according to official reports?

B Read the article to check your answers.

3 A Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 Who died in their bathroom?
2 Who was shot?
3 Who was arrested?
4 Who was murdered?
5 Who were the suspects?
6 Who was photographed?

B How are these words and phrases related to the stories?

shadows fans stars painkillers photographs a studio hospital the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) a man with a gun a flag

C Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

1 What do you think? Do you believe the official reports or the conspiracy theorists?
2 Do you know any other conspiracy theories? What happened?

The World's best-known conspiracy theories

Man on the Moon We've seen the photos, but many people claim that Neil Armstrong's 'giant leap for mankind' never really happened. They suspect that the astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin never left earth, but acted out the scene and took photographs in a studio. Conspiracy theorists say there were strange shadows falling in the photos, and surprisingly no stars are visible. They point out that the US flag, planted by Buzz Aldrin, was apparently waving, although there is no wind on the Moon. However, these doubts can be explained logically. The lighting conditions on the Moon were complicated, and the flag only appears to 'flutter' because the astronauts moved it.

The King is Dead When Elvis Presley was found lying unconscious on his bathroom floor at his home *Graceland*, his family and friends desperately tried to save him. An ambulance was called and Elvis was rushed to hospital where a special room had been prepared for him. However, the 'King of Rock'n'Roll' was already dead when he arrived there. At first, doctors said that Elvis died because his heart had stopped, but later they claimed that drugs were involved. Elvis had taken painkillers because he had toothache and he couldn't sleep. However, for years his fans refused to believe that Elvis was gone, and there were numerous sightings of 'Elvis' around the world. There is even a website elvis-is-alive.com dedicated to finding out the truth.

The Death of a President President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on 22nd November 1963. He was riding through crowds in his car when a gunman shot him once in the head. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested almost immediately after Kennedy's death, and charged with killing him. He was murdered two days later. A report in 1964 concluded that Oswald had acted alone. But conspiracy theorists have doubts, and believe more people were involved. Suspects include the CIA, the FBI and the Cuban leader Fidel Castro. In 1979, a new report agreed that Oswald had killed Kennedy, but also concluded that the President was killed 'as a result of conspiracy' by unknown people.

LIVEWORKSHEETS