CONSPIRACY

A) Introduction:

1. How do you keep up-to Date with the latest news?
2. What haven been the most important stories in the last five years?
3. Look at these headlines. They're about recent events, can you tell which ones?

Blaming China for Pandemic, Trump Says U.S. Will Leave the W.H.O.

Madeleine McCann: German police rule it a murder case - prosecutors believe she is dead

Live updates: Trump poses for photos at church after police force out protesters; demonstrations intensify overnight

A) Reading:

1. Look at the photos, what are the conspiracy theories about? Do you believe in any of them?
2. Which story do you think involved a real conspiracy, according to official reports?

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.

B) Vocabulary

1. Listen to the podcast and answer the question:

Around what proportion of the US population believes that the assassination of President John F Kennedy was not the result of a lone gunman? Is it…

a) 6%?

b) 16%?

Or c) 60%?

2. Match the expressions to the correct definition.

1. **to fake something**
2. **gullible**
3. **conspiracy theory**
4. **susceptible**
5. **cover-up**
6. **trait**
7. **paranoia**
8. **off the beaten track**
9. **paranormal**
10. **unsubstantiated**

a. strong and unreasonable feeling that other people don't like you or want to harm you
b. not supported by evidence
c. a belief that a particular group or organization is responsible for a situation or event through secret planning
d. a person who is easily persuaded to believe something
e. unusual; not done by many other people
f. attempt to prevent the public from discovering information about something important
g. to make something that isn't true appear to be real
h. strange things that can't be explained by science, for example, ghosts
i. likely to be influenced by
j. quality

C) Grammar: Narrative Tenses

Read the summary and answer:

In 1963, President Kennedy and his team were preparing for the next presidential campaign. In Dallas, he was riding through crowds in his car when a gunman shot him.

a. Which tense is used to talk about the main events?

b. Which tense is used to give background information?

Read the conclusion and underline examples of past simple and past perfect. Which tense describe events that happened first?

> Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the crime. A report later agreed that Oswald had killed Kennedy, but also concluded that there had been a conspiracy by a number of unknown people.

Say and Tell:

-We use ***say*** when we speak in general about what someone said.

John said that he arrived yesterday.

My friend says that I talk too much.

The president said, "We will not increase taxes."

-We also use ***say*** for other forms of communication:

The newspapers say that the economic situation is changing.

The book says that sugar is bad for you.

> NOTE: ***Say*** cannot be followed by a direct personal object. In other words, we cannot **say somebody something**. However, we can ***say something to somebody***, for example: He said hello to me.

-We use ***tell*** when we speak about what someone said ***to another person***.

John ***told me*** that he arrived yesterday.

My friend ***tells me*** that I talk too much.

-***Tell*** is often used with an ***object + infinitive*** to express orders, instructions, requests and advice: He told me to be quiet.

She ***told her*** son not to talk to strangers.

> NOTE: When we use ***tell*** in this way, it is always followed by a **direct personal object**. In other words, we cannot **tell something**. We can only tell somebody something.

Match and make sentences:

1. I'm terrible at telling
2. My brother told me
3. I think you should say
4. Sometimes it's better to tell
5. You should just say
6. I said

a. "hello", but she didn't answer
b. A white lie than to upset someone
c. What you mean
d. A funny story yesterday
e. sorry
f. jokes. I always forget the punch line

Expressions with `say'	Expressions with `tell'
-***say sorry*** (= apologize) Look what you've done! Say sorry! -***say something / nothing / anything*** Don't just stand there. Say something! -***say a word*** I'm not going to say a word! -***Say hello / good morning / goodbye*** In my country, you should say hello when you enter a shop. -***Say your prayers*** He said his prayers before going to bed.	-***tell the time*** Can you tell the time in Spanish? -***tell the truth / a lie*** Don't trust Adrian. He never tells the truth. Don't trust Adrian. He only tells lies. -***tell a story*** She tells interesting stories. -***tell the difference*** (= notice the difference) I can't tell the difference between Coca Cola and Pepsi. -***tell a joke*** Kim is always telling jokes.

1. Jerry is a comedian. He's good at _____ jokes.

2. Brian is very honest. He never _____ lies.

3. The student had nothing to _____ , so he remained silent.

4. It was getting late so I _____goodbye and went home.

5. Joe has travelled all around the world. He has lots of fascinating stories to _____ .

6. Mark and Kevin are identical twins. You can't _____ the difference between them.

7. I don't need a watch to _____ the time. I have my smartphone.

8. She_____ something interesting, but I forgot what it was.

9. Don't _____ a word without your lawyer.

10. Just _____ the truth for once!

11. The mistake was my fault, so I had to _____sorry.

12. Muslims _____their prayers five times a day.