Grammar & Reading sequencing events

1a Work with a partner. Look at the photos and match them to the three short articles 1–3.

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Hoaxes

SEARCH

1 Recently a picture has been circulating on the internet of a bright blue watermelon, described as a Japanese moon melon. It seems the fruit grows in Japan and eating it will change the taste of anything you eat afterwards, making sweet things taste sour, and so on. Each watermelon is supposed to cost about $200, but no one is actually offering it for sale, because it doesn't exist.

2 On October 15, 2009, the media reported that a six-year-old boy was inside a large silver balloon floating high in the sky. When the balloon landed, the boy was nowhere to be found, leading to fears that he had fallen out. However, it was later discovered that the whole story had been made up by the boy's parents, in an attempt to get a reality TV deal.

3 In the early twentieth century, scientists were keen to find some evidence that would prove the link between early man and apes. In 1912, it seemed the evidence had been found in Piltdown, England, when Charles Dawson dug up a human skull with an ape-like jaw. For more than thirty years, everyone believed that this skull, known as 'Piltdown Man', was genuine; but in 1953 a team of researchers discovered that it was, in fact, a fake, made from an ancient human skull and a modern ape jaw.

- **skull** the bones in the head of a human or animal
- **jaw** the two large bones in your skull that contain your teeth

b What do all three stories have in common?

2 Read the stories again. Which story ...?

1 is the oldest
2 is going round online
3 did people believe for the longest time
4 was a result of someone wanting to be famous

3 Work with a partner and discuss these questions.

1 Have you heard any of these stories before, or any similar ones?
2 Why do you think people carry out hoaxes like these?

4a **2.3** Listen to a radio programme about hoaxes. Did they mention any of your reasons?

b Work with a partner. List three of the reasons for carrying