

Mysterious Events

Read.

Maria: Ethan, did you see Kenny yesterday?

Ethan: How could I miss him? He was wearing a suit. He looked so impressive in his suit and tie! 😊

Maria: Yeah, I know. But it was really hot yesterday, so he couldn't have been comfortable in a suit.

Ethan: Did you ask him why he was so dressed up?

Maria: Yeah, but it was useless. He wouldn't say a word.

Ethan: He might have had a presentation to give.

Maria: Yeah, that's possible. Or maybe it wasn't meaningful at all. He could have simply felt like dressing up in a suit.

James: Hi, you guys. Did you hear about Kenny?

Ethan: Actually, we were just chatting about him.

James: Well, he called me earlier today. He said he had interviewed for a new job yesterday. And they offered it to him!

Maria: That explains it! He must have gone to his interview after work. He wasn't very careful about it, was he?

1. Why do people dress up?
2. Complete the following chart.

	Root word	Suffix		Root word	Suffix
1			8		
2			9		
3			10		
4			11		
5			12		
6			13		
7			14		

Vocabulary Mysterious events

Match the words and the stories. Then listen and check your answers.

- a. abduction
- b. disappearance
- c. discovery
- d. escape
- e. explosion
- f. theft

1. ___ In 1962, three men broke out of San Francisco's Alcatraz prison. They were never seen again.
2. ___ In 1908, a huge object from space exploded over Siberia. It destroyed 80 million trees.
3. ___ In 1937, Amelia Earhart disappeared during a flight over the Pacific Ocean. She was never seen again.
4. ___ In 1961, Betty and Barney Hill claimed they were taken aboard a UFO by unfriendly aliens.
5. ___ In 1985, divers found large rocks near Japan that some believe are a lost underwater city.
6. ___ In 1990, robbers in Boston stole paintings worth \$300 million. They have never been recovered.

1. What other examples of these types of events do you know?

Read.

It remains a mystery.

A  Listen to the conversation. What does the tourist learn about the Great Pyramid?

Guide: No one really knows how the Egyptian pyramids were built. There are many theories and new discoveries, but it remains a mystery.

Tourist: Do you have any idea how long it took to build them?

Guide: Yes. It took about 20 years to build the tallest one, the Great Pyramid.

Tourist: Can you tell me how tall it is?

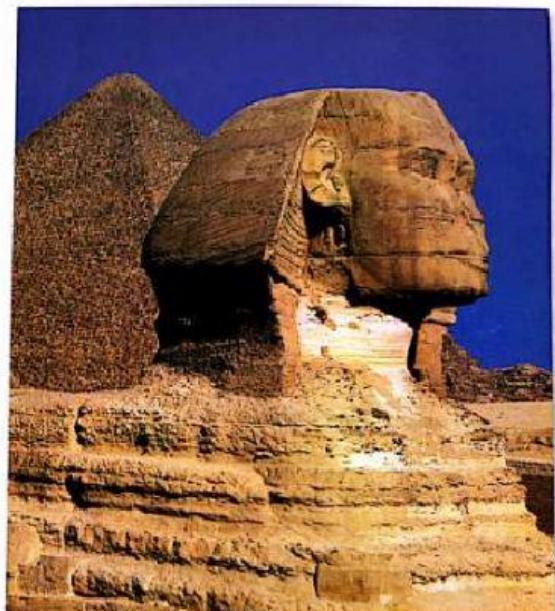
Guide: It's more than 450 feet, or about 139 meters. It was the tallest structure in the world for thousands of years.

Tourist: Really?

Guide: Yes. It was the world's tallest structure until the Eiffel Tower was built.

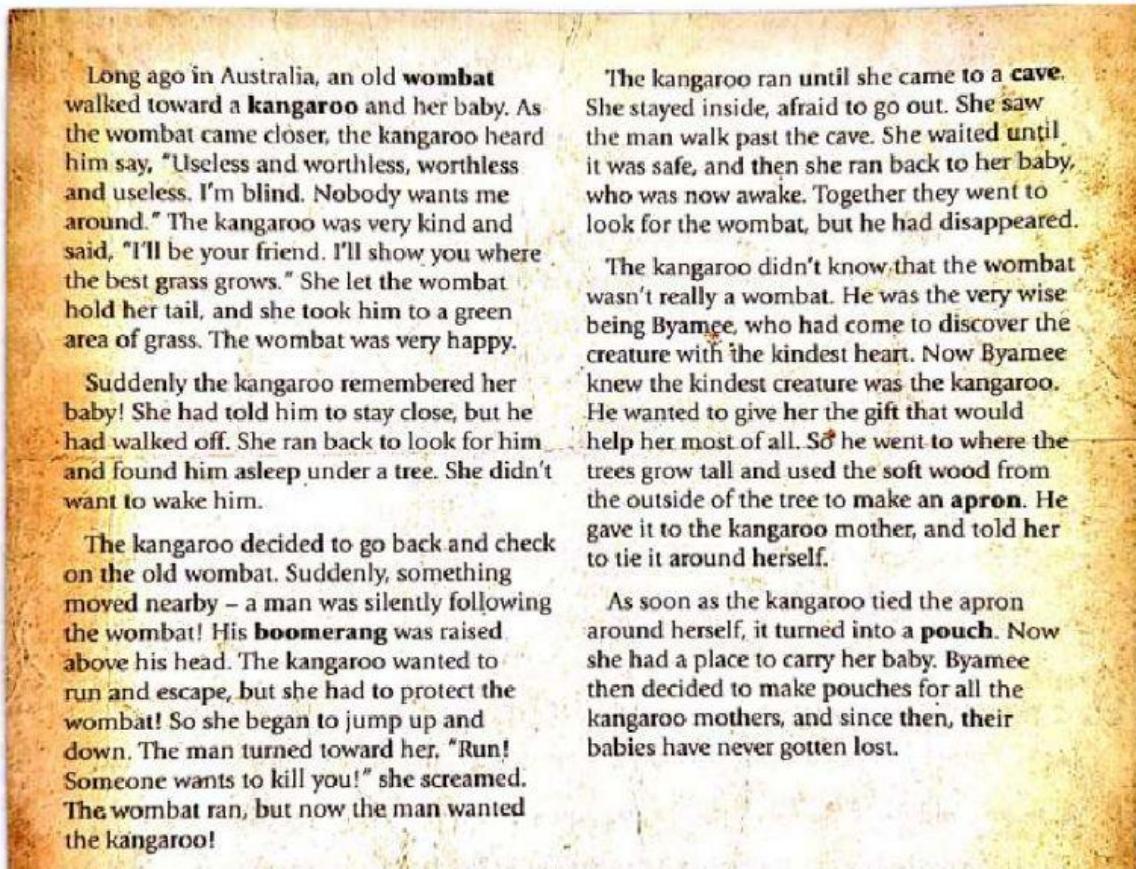
Tourist: That's amazing! Do you know how many pyramids were built in Egypt?

Guide: No one knows. But at least 80 pyramids have survived, and many more are still under the sand.



2. What happened to sphinx nose? _____
3. How many pyramids have survived? _____
4. How many years did it take to build the tallest pyramid? _____
5. How was the pyramid built? _____

Read. What is the story trying to explain?



Long ago in Australia, an old **wombat** walked toward a **kangaroo** and her baby. As the wombat came closer, the kangaroo heard him say, "Useless and worthless, worthless and useless. I'm blind. Nobody wants me around." The kangaroo was very kind and said, "I'll be your friend. I'll show you where the best grass grows." She let the wombat hold her tail, and she took him to a green area of grass. The wombat was very happy.

Suddenly the kangaroo remembered her baby! She had told him to stay close, but he had walked off. She ran back to look for him and found him asleep under a tree. She didn't want to wake him.

The kangaroo decided to go back and check on the old wombat. Suddenly, something moved nearby – a man was silently following the wombat! His **boomerang** was raised above his head. The kangaroo wanted to run and escape, but she had to protect the wombat! So she began to jump up and down. The man turned toward her. "Run! Someone wants to kill you!" she screamed. The wombat ran, but now the man wanted the kangaroo!

The kangaroo ran until she came to a **cave**. She stayed inside, afraid to go out. She saw the man walk past the cave. She waited until it was safe, and then she ran back to her baby, who was now awake. Together they went to look for the wombat, but he had disappeared.

The kangaroo didn't know that the wombat wasn't really a wombat. He was the very wise being Byamee, who had come to discover the creature with the kindest heart. Now Byamee knew the kindest creature was the kangaroo. He wanted to give her the gift that would help her most of all. So he went to where the trees grow tall and used the soft wood from the outside of the tree to make an **apron**. He gave it to the kangaroo mother, and told her to tie it around herself.

As soon as the kangaroo tied the apron around herself, it turned into a **pouch**. Now she had a place to carry her baby. Byamee then decided to make pouches for all the kangaroo mothers, and since then, their babies have never gotten lost.

Read the story again. Find the words in **bold** in the story. Match the words and the pictures.

1. wombat _____
2. kangaroo _____
3. boomerang _____
4. cave _____
5. apron _____
6. pouch _____



Work.

Add **-less** or **-ful** to the word in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. I just broke my cell phone. Now it's
useless (use)!
2. I got meaning (meaning) information from Dr. Jacobs. I think I will be healthier if I follow her advice.
3. A lot of trees fell last night in that power (power) windstorm.
4. Benny and Tom went bungee jumping. They're fear (fear)!
5. Laura is such a care (care) driver. She always drives too fast.
6. Air pollution is harm (harm). It can make you sick.
7. I don't know how to help you. I feel so power (power).
8. Penny has a big dog, but it's harm (harm). It won't hurt you.
9. Mr. Garcia's explanation was very use (use). I finally understand algebra!
10. You can borrow my computer, but please be care (care) with it.
11. Sue is very fear (fear) of animals. She won't even go to a zoo!
12. That question was completely meaning (meaning). No one knew how to answer it.



Expressions

Complete the chart. Write the sentences from the box in the correct column.

But it's likely that there is water on Mars.
But it's very probable that some kind of life was there.
✓ I doubt that people ever lived on Mars.
I'm pretty sure that there used to be trees on Mars.
It's highly unlikely that there were trees on Mars.
Well, it's doubtful that I would ever get the chance.

Expressing probability	Expressing improbability
	<i>I doubt that people ever lived on Mars.</i>

Complete with the expressions from the previous exercise.

Josh: Look at this article, Brian. It says that at one time there might have been life on Mars. Do you believe that's possible?

Brian: Well, I doubt that people ever lived on Mars. I mean, scientists would have figured that out.

Josh: I agree that people couldn't have lived on Mars. _____.

Brian: What do you mean?

Josh: Well, you know, like plant life.

Brian: No way! _____ . Scientists . . .

Josh: OK, OK. Maybe you're right. _____ . I think there are rivers or maybe even a lake. _____.

Brian: Well, maybe in the past, but I don't think there's that much water now. . . . Hey, would you go to Mars if you had the chance?

Josh: _____ . But if I did get the chance, I guess I would go! _____.



Life on Mars?



Complete

Complete the news report with the words from the box.

abduction	discovery	explosion
✓ disappearance	escape	theft

"Coming up tonight on PSB news in Miami . . . Our first story, from Houston, Texas, is about the disappearance¹ of Terrance Wellington, a well-known Houston artist. His family says they haven't seen him since Tuesday morning. Next, Jamie Sanders is in Mexico, and she'll tell you about the discovery² of a new pyramid near Mexico City. That's exciting news because a new pyramid has not been found in several years. In San Francisco, we have news about a big explosion³. People in the area say the noise was frightening and extremely loud. Two restaurants burned. And don't miss this story . . . There was a theft⁴ in a museum in New York on Saturday. Robbers took a painting worth 15 million dollars. We also have a local story that happened right here in Florida. Carl Frey will tell you about a prison escape⁵. Two men broke out of a prison in Jacksonville. Fortunately, police caught them a few hours later. And our last story tonight is about an alien abduction⁶. Is it true or not? Dan Alvarado interviews two people in Phoenix, Arizona, who claim they were taken aboard a UFO by aliens. All this and more after these messages."

Label each picture with the number and word from the correct news story in Exercise 1.



1 disappearance

Read.

Read the magazine interview. What is rongorongo? Circle the correct answer.

a. the name of a people b. the name of a writing system c. the name of an island

Lisa Olsen talks about rongorongo with Dr. Gomez . . .



EASTER ISLAND, in the Pacific Ocean, is famous for its large stone statues that were made hundreds of years ago. But not many people know about rongorongo. It is the name of the writing found on tablets, large pieces of wood, on Easter Island. I spoke with Dr. Ramiro Gomez about this mysterious writing system.

Q: Dr. Gomez, what is rongorongo?

A: Rongorongo is a writing system found on Easter Island. It doesn't have letters like English. It uses *glyphs*, which are pictures or symbols, to represent different things. In the 1860s, people discovered wooden tablets with the rongorongo glyphs on them. Today, there are only 21 of these tablets. The rest have disappeared.

Q: Can you tell me what the tablets say?

A: Many people have tried to figure out what the different glyphs mean. But so far, no one has figured out rongorongo completely. Some of the glyphs look like different animals in the area . . . birds, sea turtles, and fish. It also seems that some of the glyphs represent plants. We're pretty sure that one of the tablets has a calendar on it, but no one has figured out exactly how the calendar works.

Q: Do you know how and when the tablets were made?

A: We know that the glyphs were carved with shark's teeth. We also know that they are very old. Researchers say they might have been made in the late 1600s.

Q: If we can't read the language, are the tablets useless?

A: Definitely not. They still tell us a lot about the people who made them. For example, they had their own written language and wanted to record their history.

Q: Is there more to learn from the tablets?

A: Yes, there is. People will be studying rongorongo for many years. Hopefully, someone will solve the mystery of what is on the tablets.

Read the interview again. Write T (true), F (false), or NI (no information).

1. Rongorongo has 21 letters. F
2. Some of the symbols in rongorongo look like animals. _____
3. There are sea turtles near Easter Island. _____
4. The symbols were made with shark's teeth. _____
5. Rongorongo doesn't tell us anything. _____
6. Dr. Gomez will continue researching rongorongo. _____

Vocabulary

*Can you match the words in the table below to the definitions?

Spooky - imagination – psychic - dream - haunted – ghost - alien - UFO

1. _____ (noun) the spirit of a dead person that someone sees or hears
2. _____ (noun) a strange object that flies through the sky that no one can recognise
3. _____ (adjective) lived in or visited by the spirit of a dead person
4. _____ (noun) something that you experience in your mind while you are sleeping
5. _____ (noun) the ability to form pictures or original ideas in your mind.
6. _____ (adjective) strange and frightening

7. _____ (noun) someone who says they know what other people are thinking or what is going to happen to them

8. _____ (noun) a creature from another planet

Read.

The unexplained

Jane

I used to like reading books about unexplained things like ghosts and UFOs, but I never really believed in any of that stuff, and I still think there's probably a scientific explanation for all of it. I have a friend who says he once saw a ghost, but he already believed in ghosts before it happened. For me it's obvious that people who believe in spooky things are more likely to think they've experienced them. Anyway, he says that when he was staying with friends who live in a very old house, he saw the ghost of a woman dressed in weird clothes, like she was from hundreds of years ago. He says he saw the woman in his bedroom when he woke up in the middle of the night. But his friends had already told him that they believed the house was haunted. I think he was probably dreaming, or maybe he just made up the whole thing.

Stuart

When you think about all the UFO sightings around the world, of course some of them are just a result of people's imagination, but in other cases the only possible explanation is that these objects really are alien spaceships. If you think about the size of the universe, how can you believe we're alone in it? Why can't there be aliens out there who want to come and visit us? I've never seen a UFO myself, but my dad has. It was about forty years ago, when he was a pilot. He was flying at night when he saw a strange orange shape about a mile away from his plane. For about