

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ
БЕЛАРУСЬ

Учреждение образования
«Гомельский государственный университет
имени Франциска Скорины»

Кафедра теории и практики английского языка

Богатикова Л.И.

Практика устной речи
Практическое пособие
для студентов IV курса
специальности "Английский язык"
(Темы: Предвззудки и суеверия;
Паранормальные явления)

ПРАВЕРАНА
2014

УД 4896

Гомель, 2003

1. 21.07.02
08.08.02
10.10.02
09.13.02
03.15.02
25.15.02

«Получено» Гомель, Зак. 5922-50000 20.03.92

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИМ. Ф. СКОРИНЫ

в авторской редакции

Автор-составитель: Богатикова Л. И., доцент, к.п.н.

Рецензенты: Банникова Л. С., доцент, к.п.н.,
Жилина И. К., доцент, к.п.н.

Рекомендовано к изданию научно-методическим советом
Учреждения образования «Гомельский государственный университет
имени Франциска Скорины»

Данное пособие предназначено для студентов 1У курса факультета
иностранных языков специальности «английский язык» для развития
навыков и умений в рамках тем «Предвззудки и суеверия»,
«Паранормальные явления».

© Богатикова Л.И.
© Учреждение образования «Гомельский
государственный университет имени
Франциска Скорины», 2003

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction. | 4 |
| Unit 1. Superstitions and Prejudices. | 5 |
| Unit 2. The Unexplained. | 28 |
| Unit 3. Fears and Phobias. | 52 |
| Appendices. | 59 |

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

Данное практическое пособие предназначено для студентов IV курса специальности «английский язык».

Целью данного пособия является развитие навыков и умений в устной речи и систематизация знаний в рамках тем «Предвззудки и суеверия», «Паранормальные явления», «Фобии».

Пособие содержит текстовый материал по указанным темам, упражнения на развитие лексических навыков и расширение словарного запаса студентов; предтекстовые и послетекстовые упражнения, направленные на обеспечение понимания и толкования текста, определение отношения читателя к проблемам, затрагиваемым в данных текстах и предназначенных для дальнейшего обсуждения; а также упражнения на развитие навыков и умений в аудировании и говорении и, в целом, коммуникативной компетенции речевого взаимодействия в дискуссиях и диспутах.

Кроме того, в приложении предлагается дополнительный материал по данной тематике, имеющий образовательное значение и предполагающий самостоятельную работу студентов, направленную на основательное изучение данных тем и их обсуждение.

Пособие состоит из трех разделов (Units), структура которых идентична и включает вопросы и проблемы для обсуждения, предлагаемые в начале раздела с той целью, чтобы вызвать интерес к данной теме; лексические упражнения; тексты для чтения с предтекстовыми и после- текстовыми упражнениями; упражнения коммуникативного характера на развитие навыков и умений в устной речи, предусматривающие как индивидуальную, парную, так и групповую работу.

Материалом для обсуждения являются различные проблемные вопросы, утверждения, цитаты, пословицы и т.д. Обсуждение последних способствует не только более полному осмыслению этих проблем, но и критическому подходу к ним.

Творческие упражнения для коллективного обсуждения сопровождаются не только речевыми клише, которые студенты должны использовать, но также описанием всей процедуры дискуссии и планом построения аргументированного высказывания.

Discussion point:

I. In Britain as well as in other countries the objects and actions have superstitions attached to them:

What is the superstition?

Is there the same superstition in your country?

Can any superstitions be explained logically?

What other superstitions are there in your country?

Do you agree that people have a lot of superstitions about animals? What are they?

II. Read the following situations and say which of them are associated with superstitions and which of them are associated with customs and traditions:

- a) In parts of Northern England and in Scotland the first man to enter a house on New Year's Day should be a dark-haired man, otherwise ill-luck will follow. It is also advisable that the person should bring with him a gift – a piece of coal, a fish, a bottle of whisky or a piece of bread are traditional gifts.
- b) The first of April is the day of playing practical jokes or sending friends on fool's errands. It is a season when all people, even the most dignified, are given an excuse to play the fool.
- c) In Africa the animal that causes the greatest number of deaths is the crocodile. And in one of the villages near the Bogol River in Northern Ghana you can find a man who is called the crocodile man by everyone. The crocodile man is very popular among the village people for he appears whenever there are dangerous crocodiles and catches them. Everyone believes that his magic power helps him to become a crocodile for a short time.
- d) Lewes, Sussex, is noted for its Guy Fawkes celebrations, now a highly organized event attracting thousands of visitors. There are torchlight processions and pageantry, with official Bonfire Societies to help with the various displays.

III. Look at the pictures given below and say what these superstitions foretell and which of them foretell good / bad luck.



6

IV. Read the definition of the word "superstition" and answer the following questions:

superstition [su:p 'st n] 1) irrational belief or practice, either cultural, personal or religious, usually founded on ignorance or fear, and characterized by obsessive reverence for omens, lucky charms, etc.; 2) any irrational belief, esp. with regard to the unknown.

- Do you agree that superstitions are irrational?
- ... are founded on ignorance or fear?
- What is the difference between a belief and a superstition?
- Are the following examples of cultural or personal superstitions?
- a) A boy has to have a certain lucky pen to write an exam.
- b) A girl who's getting married refuses to see her future husband on the day of the marriage, until they meet at the church. She also believes that she has to wear 'something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.'
- c) A seven year-old girl's tooth falls out, so she puts the tooth under her pillow.
- d) A gambler always puts money on grey horses.
- e) A businessman consults an astrologer before making an important decision.
- f) A footballer always puts his clothes on in a certain order before a match.
- g) On Christmas Eve, a child puts a mince pie and a glass of brandy out for Father Christmas.
- h) A person thinks 'if I get to the end of the road before that bus, I'll have a good day.'

V. Work in Pairs. Ask your partners:

- which superstitions they know;
- if they believe in superstition;
- which of the superstitions can be explained logically;
- if they are cultural, personal or religious.

Vocabulary Development

VI. Do you believe in luck? Put the beginnings and ends together, using expressions from the box. (There are too many expressions).

7

If you see , will be fine tomorrow.
 If you spill , you'll get soon.
 If is red this evening, you'll have
 If your first visitor in the New Year has , throw over your shoulder to keep bad luck away.
 If itches, you'll have bad luck.
 If you break , you'll have good luck ...

black cat, all year, a mirror, an old shoe, dark hair, four potatoes, good luck, seven years', some money, some salt, some wine, the baby, the sky, the weather, your left hand

VII. Highlight the following words and word combinations and fill the gaps in these sentences with suitable words from the list above.

- 1) Make sure you clean your room before he comes; he ... of tidiness.
- 2) He offered ... my ...
- 3) This rain ... well for the farmers.
- 4) ... involves communicating with the spirits of the dead.
- 5) In the Roman Catholic church, an ... is a ceremony that consists of a series of prayers, recited over the possessed person.
- 6) In ancient Greece and Rome, prophets known as ... events by interpreting messages from the deities.
- 7) ... is the practice of trying to learn about the unknown by magical or supernatural means.
- 8) According to legend anyone who kisses ... receives the gift of expressive, convincing speech.
- 9) Another type of divination, called ..., involves the prediction of events by reading the lines and marks of the hand.
- 10) A tooth or a piece of horn or wood can serve as an ...
- 11) To avoid the ... , many people utter such phrases as "God bless you" or wear blue beads or other protective charms.

- 12) The Scandinavians considered ... their luckiest day, but people today associate ... the 13 th with bad luck.
- 13) The word ... comes from an African word that means god, spirit, or sacred object.
- 14) ... of a murdered dairymaid is said to walk the farmyard at night.
- 15) A good ... foretells a desirable event, and a bad ... forecasts disaster.
- 16) ... is the supposed use of unnatural or supernatural power by a person to try to control human actions or natural events.
- 17) According to tradition, ... brings good luck to person born in its month.
- 18) Psychiatrists sometimes refer to ... as mental disorders, emotional illnesses, or psychiatric illnesses.
- 19) According to many folk stories, ... must have a constant supply of fresh blood obtained by biting the neck of sleeping victims.
- 20) ... includes astrology, fortunetelling, magic and spiritualism - the belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living.
- 21) European ... is anti-christian and involves an association with, the devil.
- 22) According to one superstition, sleeping in ... could cause insanity.

VIII. Explain the following expressions and make up situations of your own:

- to take a deliberate action to cause smth (to happen);
- to be associated with;
- to overcome fears by providing security;
- to be riddled with superstition;
- superstitions attached to smth / smb.

Idioms

IX. Explain the following expressions. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- a) 1) sheer / pure luck
- 2) your luck runs out
- 3) as luck would have it
- 4) down on one's luck
- 5) good luck / best of luck
- 6) in luck / out of luck

- 7) just my luck
 - 8) to push one's luck
 - 9) a run of (bad) luck
 - 10) a stroke / a piece of luck
 - 11) to ride one's luck
 - 12) to trust to luck
 - 13) to try / chance one's luck (at smth)
 - 14) worse luck
- b) Fill the gaps with suitable phrases from the list above.
- 1) You're ... We've got one pair left in your size.
 - 2) It was ... that we found the house.
 - 3) ..., there was one seat left.
 - 4) Though there were a lot of tourists we had ... finding accommodation.
 - 5) She went back to France last June to ... at modelling.
 - 6) She wished him ... in his driving test.
 - 7) It looks as though our ... finally ...
 - 8) For two years he's been ... as he's got neither work, nor permanent lodgings.
 - 9) ... to get the broken chair.
 - 10) It was really ... : first she failed in her exams, then she quarrelled with her friend and ..., she was fired from her work.
 - 11) I think you ... asking for another pay rise.
 - 12) He didn't prepare for his exams as he ..., but ... and he failed.
 - 13) I've got to work tonight, ...!
 - 14) He went on gambling as he ... as usual.
 - 15) You're ... - there are just two tickets left.
 - 16) By ... I came across it in a local book-shop.
 - 17) I decided to ... at the roulette wheel.
 - 18) I ... that there would be another train, but I ... as I missed all the trains.
 - 19) We arrived at the airport 2 hours early but ... the flight had been cancelled.
 - 20) Some people are rather reckless and like ...

X. Work in pairs. Make up a dialogue using the expressions with "luck" and act it out.

Reading.

- XI. a) Before you read the text discuss the role of superstitions in our life.
b) Read the text and answer the questions given below:

Text 1 Superstitions

Superstition is a traditional belief that a certain action or event can cause or foretell an apparently unrelated event. For example, some superstitious people believe that carrying a rabbit's foot will bring them good luck. Others believe that if a black cat crosses their path, they will have bad luck. To yet other superstitious people, dropping a knife or a fork on the floor means company is coming. Such beliefs are superstitions because in each case the action and the event it foretells are traditionally thought to be connected. For instance, the rabbit's foot is associated with fertility.

Superstitions have existed in every human society throughout history. Most people, including highly educated individuals, act superstitiously from time to time. Many persons may joke about avoiding bad luck by touching wood or not walking under a ladder. But they have such beliefs anyway. Scholars once believed that all superstitions dated back to humanity's early history. But many superstitions have appeared in relatively recent times.

Countless human activities are involved in superstitions. They include eating, sleeping, working, playing, getting married, having a baby, becoming ill, and dying. Times of danger and uncertainty have brought many superstitions. Superstitions concern animals, clothing, lakes, mountains, names, numbers, the planets and arts, the weather, and parts of the body.

Kinds of superstitions. Many superstitions deal with important events in a person's life, such as birth, entering adulthood, marriage, pregnancy, and death. Such superstitions supposedly ensure that a person will pass from one stage of life to the next. For example, a person born on Sunday will always have good luck. A bride and groom will have bad luck if they see each other on their wedding day before the ceremony. A pregnant woman must eat the right food, or she will give her child an unwanted birthmark. After a person dies, the doors and windows of the room should be opened so the spirit can leave.

Some superstitions involve a type of magic. One form of such magic comes from the belief that similar actions produce similar results. Many people believe a newborn baby must be carried upstairs before being carried downstairs. In this way, the child will be assured of rising in the world and having success. The same principle appears in the custom of putting money in a purse or wallet being given as a gift. The giver wants to make sure the purse or wallet will always contain money.

A number of superstitions involve someone's taking a deliberate action to cause something to happen or to prevent something from occurring. Most of these *causal* superstitions involve ensuring good luck, avoiding bad luck, or making something good happen. For example, some people will not start a trip on a Friday, especially if it is the 13th day of the month. Friday and the number 13 are both associated with bad luck. Such superstitions vary from country to country. According to a Japanese belief, the number 4 is unlucky. This is because *shi*, the Japanese word for that number, sounds like the Japanese word that means *death*. As a result, many buildings in Japan have no fourth floor. According to another superstition, wedding guests throw rice at the newlyweds to ensure that the marriage will result in many children. Causal superstitions may involve actions intended to give bad luck to someone. Witches supposedly perform some of these actions.

Other superstitions foretell an event without any conscious action by the person involved. Some of these *sign* superstitions foretell good or bad luck. For example, finding a horseshoe or a four-leaf clover means good luck. Breaking a mirror or spilling salt brings bad luck. Other sign superstitions foretell a certain event or condition. A ring around the moon means rain will soon fall. A howling dog means death is near. A person with red hair has a quick temper.

Some sign superstitions may be changed into causal superstitions. If a person hangs a horseshoe over a door, witches cannot enter. If a young woman pins a four-leaf clover to her door, she will marry the first bachelor who comes in the door. In some cases, a person may avoid the bad luck involved in a sign superstition by taking immediate action. For example, someone who has spilled salt may cancel the bad luck by throwing a pinch of salt over the left shoulder.

The role of superstitions. Many people scoff at superstitions because they consider such beliefs to be unscientific. However, many scholars believe that some superstitions have a scientific basis. For example, people

in England once used tea made from foxglove plants to treat some forms of heart disease. Today, doctors often prescribe digitalis, a drug made from dried leaves of the purple foxglove, for patients with weak hearts.

Some superstitions have a practical origin. For example, many people believe that lighting cigarettes for three individuals from one match will bring bad luck. This superstition may have originated among soldiers during World War I (1914-1918). At night, a match that stayed alight long enough to light three cigarettes provided a target for the enemy. Another superstition involves hanging a bag of garlic around a child's neck for protection from illness. The garlic-filled bag has no supernatural power. But its smell keeps away other children - including any who have a disease that the wearer of the bag might catch.

Most people have fears that make them insecure. Superstitions help overcome such fears by providing security. They reassure people that they will get what they want and avoid trouble. For example, millions of people believe in astrology and base important decisions on the position of the sun, moon, planets and stars. Superstitions will probably have a part in life as long as people fear each other and have uncertainties about the future.

Superstitions are related to amulet, augur, birthstone, Blarney stone, divination, evil eye, exorcism, fetish, fortunetelling, Friday, ghost, magic, mental illness, moon, necromancy, occultism, omen, palmistry, vampire, voodoo, witchcraft.

(From "Worldbook")

- 1) Why are some beliefs considered to be superstitions?
- 2) How long have superstitions existed?
- 3) What human activities are involved in superstitions?
- 4) What kinds of superstitions are there and what do they deal with?
- 5) What superstitions involve a type of magic? How can it be explained?
- 6) What is the difference between causal superstitions and sign superstitions?
- 7) How can sign superstitions be changed into causal superstitions?
- 8) Do superstitions have a scientific basis or practical origin?
- 9) Do superstitions play an important role in everyday life? Why?

c) Refer back to the text and prove that:

- 1) Superstitions have existed in every human society throughout history.

- 2) Human activities are involved in superstitions.
- 3) Some superstitions involve a type of magic.
- 4) Superstitions help overcome fears.

d) Discuss with your partner what you would add to or change in the information given in the text. (Compare it with the superstitions spread in your country).

XII. a) Read the text and find the following information in the text:

- 1) Who is a mandarin?
- 2) Is it possible to kill a man by just thought-transference?

Text 2 The Murder of the Mandarin

I

'What's that you're saying about murder?' asked Mrs. Cheswardine as she came into the large drawing-room, carrying the supper-tray.

'Put it down here', said her husband, referring to the supper-tray, and pointing to a little table which stood two legs off and two legs on the hearth-rug.

'I asked you what you were saying about murder', said Vera sharply, 'but it seems—'

'Oh! Did you?' Woodruff apologized. 'I was saying that murder isn't such an impossible thing as it appears. Anyone might commit a murder.'

'Then you want to defend, Harrisford? Do you hear what he says, Stephen?'

The notorious and terrible Harrisford murders were agitating the Five Towns that November. People read, talked, and dreamt murder; for several weeks they took murder to all their meals.

'He doesn't want to defend Harrisford at all,' said Cheswardine, with a superior masculine air, 'and of course anyone might commit a murder. I might.'

'Stephen! How horrid you are!'

'You might, even!' said Woodruff, gazing at Vera.

'Charlie! Why, the blood alone—'

'There isn't always blood,' said the oracular husband.

'Listen here,' proceeded Woodruff, who read variously and enjoyed philosophical speculation. 'Supposing that by just taking thought, by just wishing it, an Englishman could kill a mandarin in China and make himself rich for life, without anybody knowing about it! How many mandarins do you suppose there would be left in China at the end of a week?'

'At the end of twenty-four hours, rather,' said Cheswardine grimly.

'Not one,' said Woodruff.

'But that's absurd,' Vera objected, disturbed. When these two men began their philosophical discussions they always succeeded in disturbing her. She hated to see life in a queer light. She hated to think.

'It isn't absurd,' Woodruff replied. 'It simply shows that what prevents wholesale murder is not the wickedness of it, but the fear of being found out, and the general mess, and seeing the corpse, and so on.'

Vera shuddered.

'And I'm not sure,' Woodruff proceeded, 'that murder is so very much more wicked than lots of other things.'

'Usury, for instance,' Cheswardine put in.

'Or bigamy,' said Woodruff.

'But an Englishman *couldn't* kill a mandarin in China by just wishing it,' said Vera, looking up.

'How do we know?' said Woodruff, in his patient voice.

'How do we know? You remember what I was telling you about thought-transference last week. It was in *Borderland*.'

Vera felt as if there was no more solid ground to stand on, and it angered her to be plunging about in a bog.

II

It was at that juncture of despair that she thought of mandarins. Or rather — I may as well be frank — she had been thinking of mandarins all the time since retiring to rest. There *might* be something in Charlie's mandarin theory.... According to Charlie, so many queer, inexplicable things happened in the world. Occult — subliminal — astral — thoughtwaves. These expressions and many more occurred to her as she

recollected Charlie's disconcerting conversations. There *might*... One never knew.

Suddenly she thought of her husband's pockets, bulging with silver, with gold, and with bank-notes. Tantalizing vision! No! She could not steal. Besides, he might wake up.

And she returned to mandarins. She got herself into a very morbid and two-o'clock-in-the-morning state of mind. Suppose it was a dodge that *did* work. (Of course, she was extremely superstitious; we all are.) She began to reflect seriously upon China. She remembered having heard that Chinese mandarins were very corrupt; that they ground the faces of the poor, and put innocent victims to the torture; in short, that they were sinful and horrid persons, scoundrels unfit for mercy. Then she pondered upon the remotest parts of China, regions where Europeans never could penetrate. No doubt there was some unimportant mandarin, somewhere in these regions, to whose district his death would be a decided blessing, to kill whom would indeed be an act of humanity. Probably a mandarin without a wife or a family; a bachelor mandarin whom no relative would regret; or, in the alternative, a mandarin with many wives, whose disgusting polygamy merited severe punishment! An old mandarin already pretty nearly dead; or, in the alternative, a young one just commencing a career of infamy!

'I'm awfully silly,' she whispered to herself. 'But still, if there *should* be anything in it. And I must, I must, I must have that thing for my dress!'

She looked again at the dim forms of her husband's clothes, pitched anyhow on an ottoman. No! She could not stoop to theft!

So she murdered a mandarin; lying in bed there, not any particular mandarin, a vague mandarin, the mandarin most convenient and suitable under all the circumstances. She deliberately wished him dead, on the off-chance of acquiring riches, or, more accurately, because she was short of fourteen and fivepence in order to look perfectly splendid at a ball.

In the morning when she woke up - her husband had already departed to the works - she thought how foolish she had been in the night. She did not feel sorry for having desired the death of a fellow-creature. Not at all. She felt sorry because she was convinced, in the cold light of day, that the charm would not work. Charlie's notions were really too ridiculous, too preposterous. No! She must reconcile herself to wearing a

ball dress which was less than perfection, and all for the want of fourteen and fivepence. And she had more nerves than ever!

She had nerves to such an extent that when she went to unlock the drawer of her own private toilet-table, in which her prudent and fussy husband forced her to lock up her rings and brooches every night, she attacked the wrong drawer - an empty unfastened drawer that she never used. And lo! The empty drawer was not empty. There was a sovereign lying in it!

This gave her a start, connecting the discovery, as naturally at the first blush she did, with the mandarin.

Surely it couldn't be, after all.

Then she came to her senses. What absurdity! A coincidence, of course, nothing else? Besides, a mere sovereign! It wasn't enough. Charlie had said 'rich for life'. The sovereign must have lain there for months and months, forgotten.

However, it was none the less a sovereign. She picked it up, thanked Providence, ordered the dog-cart, and drove straight to Brunt's. The particular thing that she acquired was an exceedingly thin, slim, and fetching silver belt - a marvel for the money, and the ideal waist decoration for her wonderful white muslin gown. She bought it, and left the shop.

And as she came out of the shop, she saw a street urchin holding out the poster of the early edition of the *Signal*. And she read on the poster, in large letters: 'DEATH of LI HUNG CHANG'. It is no exaggeration to say that she nearly fainted. Only by the exercise of that hard self-control, of which women alone are capable, did she refrain from tumbling against the blue-clad breast of Adams, the Cheswardine coachman.

She purchased the *Signal* with well-feigned calm, opened it and read: '*Stop-press news. Peking. Li Hung Chang, the celebrated Chinese statesman, died at two o'clock this morning. - Reuter.*'

III

Vera reclined on the sofa that afternoon, and the sofa was drawn round in front of the drawing-room fire. Vera was having a headache; she was having it in her grand, her official manner.

The death of Li Hung Chang was heavy on her soul. Occultism was justified of itself. The affair lay beyond coincidence. She had always *known* that there was something in occultism, supernaturalism, so-called

superstitions, what now. But she had never expected to prove the faith that was in her by such a homicidal act on her part.

She then fell asleep.

When she awoke, some considerable time afterwards, Stephen was calling to her. It was his voice, indeed, that had aroused her. The room was dark.

'I say, Vera,' he demanded, in a low, slightly mimical tone, 'have you taken a sovereign out of the empty drawer in your toilet-table?'

'No,' she said quickly, without thinking.

'Ah!' he observed reflectively, 'I knew I was right.' He paused, and added, coldly, 'If you aren't better you ought to go to bed.'

Then he left her, shutting the door with a noise that showed a certain lack of sympathy with her headache.

She sprang up. Her first feeling was one of thankfulness that that brief interview had occurred in darkness. So Stephen was aware of the existence of the sovereign! The sovereign was not occult. Possibly he had put it there. And what did he know he was 'right' about?

She lighted the gas, and gazed at herself in the glass, realizing that she no longer had a headache, and endeavouring to arrange her ideas.

'What's this?' said another voice at the door. She glanced round hastily, guiltily. It was Charlie.

'Steve telephoned me you were too ill to go to the dance,' explained Charlie, 'so I thought I'd come and make inquiries. I quite expected to find you in bed with a nurse and a doctor or two at least. What is it?' He smiled.

'Nothing,' she replied. 'Only a headache. It's gone now.'

She stood against the mantelpiece, so that he should not see the white parcel.

'That's good,' said Charlie.

There was a pause.

'Strange, Li Hung Chang dying last night, just after we had been talking about killing mandarins,' she said. She could not keep off the subject. It attracted her like a snake, and she approached it in spite of the fact that she fervently wished not to approach it.

'Yes,' said Charlie. 'But Li wasn't a mandarin, you know. And he didn't die after we had been talking about mandarins. He died before.'

'Oh! I thought it said in the paper he died at two o'clock this morning.'

'Two a.m. in Peking,' Charlie answered. 'You must remember that Peking time is many hours earlier than our time. It lies so far eastward.'

'Oh!' she said again.

Stephen hurried in, with a worried air.

'Ah! It's you, Charlie!'

'She isn't absolutely dying, I find,' said Charlie, turning to Vera: 'You are going to the dance after all - aren't you?'

'I say, Vera,' Stephen interrupted, 'either you or I must have a scene with Martha. I've always suspected that confounded housemaid. So I put a marked sovereign in a drawer this morning, and it was gone at lunch-time. She'd better hook it instantly. Of course I shan't prosecute.'

'Martha!' cried Vera. 'Stephen, what on earth are you thinking of? I wish you would leave the servants to me. If you think you can manage this house in your spare time from the works, you are welcome to try. But don't blame me for the consequences.' Glances of triumph flashed in her eyes.

'But I tell you -'

'Nonsense,' said Vera. 'I took the sovereign. I saw it there and I took it, and just to punish you, I've spent it. It's not at all nice to lay traps for servants like that.'

'Then why did you tell me just now you hadn't taken it?' Stephen demanded crossly.

'I didn't feel well enough to argue with you then,' Vera replied.

'You've recovered precious quick,' retorted Stephen with grimness.

'Of course, if you want to make a scene before strangers,' Vera whimpered (poor Charlie a stranger!). 'I'll go to bed.'

Stephen knew when he was beaten.

She went to the Hockey dance, though. She and Stephen and Charlie and his young sister, aged seventeen, all descended together to the Town Hall in a brougham. The young girl admired Vera's belt excessively, and looked forward to the moment when she too should be a bewitching and captivating wife like Vera, in short, a woman of the world, worshipped by grave, bearded men. And both the men were under the spell of Vera's incurable charm, capricious, surprising, exasperating, indefinable, indispensable to their lives.

'Stupid superstitions!' reflected Vera. 'But of course I never believed it really.'

And she cast down her eyes to gloat over the belt.

(From "The Murder Of the Mandarin" by Arnold Bennet).

b) Highlight the following words and phrases in the text – if any are unfamiliar, try to work out their meanings from the context:

oracular; subliminal; thought-transference; astral; charm; marvel; coincidence; bewitch; feigned; providence; thoughtwave; spell

c) Match these definitions to the words you highlighted in the text:

- 1) an act or expression believed to have magical powers;
- 2) to cause another person to think in the same way;
- 3) to have the same thoughts;
- 4) telling people what would happen in the future or giving them advice from the gods;
- 5) relating to or using stars; relating to a world of spiritual, not physical, ideas and experiences;
- 6) a combination of events happening by chance at the same time or in the same way;
- 7) pretended; giving an appearance of smth that is not true;
- 8) to have a magic effect, often harmful;
- 9) a powerful influence on someone, usually an influence that makes them admire or obey another person;
- 10) subconscious influence that may affect you even though you do not notice or think about it;
- 11) a special event showing God's care or a powerful force that some people believe causes everything that happens to us;
- 12) a wonder; someone or something that is very surprising or impressive;

d) Highlight these words with the help of the episodes and situations based on your personal experience:

thought-transference; oracular; providence; coincidence; spell.

e) Referring back to the text, answer these questions:

- 1) What was the philosophical speculation of Woodruff on a murder?
- 2) What inexplicable things happen in the world?
- 3) How did Vera murder a mandarin? Why was she persuaded she had done it?
- 4) What effect did the news produce on Vera? Why did she believe it?
- 5) How did a sovereign appear to be in the empty drawer in Vera's toilet-table? Why was it put there? What did she need money for?
- 6) Why did Vera tell her husband that she hadn't taken the sovereign?
- 7) How did Charlie explain that Li Hung Chang had died before their talking about mandarins?
- 8) What was the reason of Li's death? Was it a coincidence or thought-transference?
- 9) Was Vera superstitious?
- 10) Which is more powerful: superstitions or thought-transference? Why?
- 11) What was your reaction to the story? Were you surprised, interested, inspired, depressed or amused by what you read?

f) Highlight an example in the text of each of the following:

- 1) information (something you didn't know or realize before);
- 2) opinion (a point of view that made you pause and think);
- 3) entertainment (something that made you smile);
- 4) social comment (a criticism of the way people behave);
- 5) empathy (something that made you share the main character's/ or writer's/ feelings).

g) Recount a similar episode from your life experience and discuss it with your partner:

Discussion point

XIII. 1) What is prejudice?

2) What is the difference between prejudice and superstition?

Vocabulary Development

XIV. a) Match these definitions to the following words:

available; distort; eliminate; tolerance; encourage; sustain; background; conflict with; predetermine; suppress; pride oneself on smth; preconceived; consider on one's merits; ageism.

- 1) to believe that people of certain age are lazy, stupid, emotionally unstable, etc.;
- 2) able to be got, obtained, used, seen;
- 3) to fix unchangeably from the beginning;
- 4) to twist out of natural, visual or original shape or condition;
- 5) to give confidence or hope (to someone);
- 6) to remove or get rid of;
- 7) to be in opposition (to another or each other); disagree;
- 8) formed in advance without (enough) knowledge or experience;
- 9) the ability to suffer pain, hardship, etc.;
- 10) a person's family, experience and education;
- 11) to keep strong; to keep (in existence) over a long period;
- 12) to prevent from appearing, to crush (esp. an action or state) by force;
- 13) to be pleased and satisfied with (oneself about);
- 14) to take into account the quality of deserving praise, reward, etc. personal worth;

b) Fill the gaps in these sentences with suitable words from the list below:

- 1) She... her ability to speak eight languages.
- 2) Do British laws... any international laws?
- 3) He has no... to cold.
- 4) The colour of a person's hair is often... by that of his parents.
- 5) He owed his success to his wife's....
- 6) He is a man of excellent....
- 7) She tried... her feelings of anger.
- 8) He couldn't... his interest.
- 9) My ... opinion about John was proved wrong when I actually met him.

- 10) He gave a ...account of what had happened.
- 11) I'm sorry, but the doctor is not... now.
- 12) Everyone should..., not on their sex or age, or race.

(to suppress; preconceived; to pride oneself on; background; tolerance; available; to sustain; to predetermine; encouragement; to conflict with; to consider smb on one's merits; distorted)

XV. Work in pairs. Discuss with your partner the following points:

- 1) what preconceived ideas people may have;
- 2) what people should have tolerance to (in relationship with others);
- 3) what an individual can pride oneself on;
- 4) whether people are always considered on their merits, if not, why.

Reading

XVI. a) Read the article and find the answers to the following questions in it:

- 1) What is prejudice?
- 2) What might an unfavourable opinion lead to?
- 3) How does prejudice arise? What may contribute to prejudice?
- 4) How is prejudice sustained?
- 5) How can prejudice be reduced or even eliminated?

Text 3 Prejudices

Prejudice is an opinion formed without taking the time or care to judge fairly. Such an opinion may be favourable or unfavourable and is held without regard to the available evidence. In this article, *prejudice* refers to an unfavourable opinion held in this way about the members of a particular social group. Prejudiced individuals tend to twist, distort, misinterpret, or even ignore the facts that conflict with their predetermined opinion. For example, a prejudiced person might believe that all individuals of a certain age, national origin, ethnic group,

religion, sex, or region of a country are lazy, violent, stupid, emotionally unstable, or greedy.

Because of prejudice, millions of people have been denied equal chances for jobs, housing, education, and participation in government. In Nazi Germany, extreme prejudice led to the killing of millions of Jews, Gypsies and other members of minority groups during World War II (1939-1945).

A number of elements may contribute to prejudice. These elements include (1) competition, (2) religious ideas, (3) fear of strangers, and (4) extreme nationalism. Prejudice may develop when one group fears that competition from another group will deprive them of prestige, privilege, political power, or economic opportunities. Religious ideas – especially a lack of tolerance for religions other than one's own – have contributed to prejudice against certain ethnic and religious groups. Some people have suggested that prejudice arises from a natural fear of strangers. Extreme nationalism may cause prejudice by encouraging people to regard foreign characteristics as inferior.

Prejudice may be passed from generation to generation. Many children learn prejudice from their parents and teachers. Institutions, laws, and customs that discriminate against certain groups of people sustain prejudice. However, not all people accept the prejudices of their communities. Social scientists have learned some people are more likely to form prejudices than other people are. This difference depends on variations of individual experiences and background. Education, certain types of contact between groups, institutional change may help reduce prejudice. Education helps correct false generalizations that form the basis of prejudice. Contact between groups is most likely to reduce prejudice when the groups work together for a common cause. Changes in institutions, and customs to reduce discrimination might eliminate some prejudice.

(From "Worldbook")

b) Referring back to the text agree or disagree with the following points. Give your reasons:

- 1) Prejudice refers to unfavourable opinion.
- 2) Prejudice may develop from fears.

- 3) Prejudice is not passed from generation to generation.
- 4) It is impossible to eliminate or at least reduce prejudice.

XVII. a) Read the following text and say what kind of prejudice is described in it:

Text 4

The Thoughts of Lizzy

Ronnie Carter never treated her as an equal or even a real person, just as useful object. She knew if he had a male secretary, he would not be able to behave like that. She knew she was good at her job and she hated being patronized. In some way he seemed to think he was naturally superior to her and she wondered, not for the first time, what sort of relationship he had with his wife.

The company prided itself on offering equal opportunities to men and women, but only at management level, she thought sadly. There was definitely discrimination as far as promotion was concerned. No secretary had ever been promoted to executive level. Only last month, Charles Taylor's secretary had been turned down because the Board had been too narrow-minded even to consider that a secretary could make a good executive.

It was difficult for her to suppress her natural inclination to say what she thought but, along with her colleagues who were very supportive, she had decided to try and open Ronnie's mind to the fact that women were people and should not be automatically categorized as a sub-species. Everyone should be considered on their merits, not on their sex. Having preconceived ideas about anyone was just not acceptable in the 1990s. In the meantime, however, a girl couldn't help imagining a bit of revenge!

b) Highlight an example in the text of each of the following:

- 1) information (something you didn't know or realize before);
- 2) opinion (a point of view that made you pause and think);
- 3) social comment (a criticism of the way people behave);

company (something that made you share the main character's / writer's feelings);

- c) Talk to your partner about other forms of prejudice (you have experienced in your life, if you have).

Discussion activity

XVIII. Highlight the following proverbs and match them to the given phrases; use them in the situations of your own:

- 1) Every bullet has its billet.
- 2) It is always darkest before the dawn.
- 3) Man proposes, god disposes.
- 4) Misfortune never comes singly.
- 5) It never rains but it pours.
- 6) Nothing succeeds like success.
 - a) providence
 - b) coincidence
 - c) in luck/ out of luck
 - d) to try/ chance one's luck at smth
 - e) a run of luck
 - f) a run of bad luck
 - g) your luck changes

XIX. Work in groups. Discuss these topics:

- 1) superstitions as a traditional belief;
- 2) kinds and role of the superstitions;
- 3) well-known superstitions foretelling good and bad luck;
- 4) whether and how prejudices are connected with people's background;
- 5) what prejudices might arise from and what they might lead to;
- 6) forms of prejudices;
- 7) how prejudices can be eliminated or (at least) reduced;

XX. Make up an imaginary story about yourself, including the following words:

A black cat, a mirror, an empty pail, a horse-shoe, amulet.

XXI. Think of the situation from your own or your friend's life experience connected with superstitions and prejudices.

XXII. Work in groups. Here are two statements. Discuss your reaction to them with your partners. Give your argument/ counterargument, using the expressions below.

- 1) Prejudices are convenient.
- 2) Most people even highly educated individuals, act superstitiously from time to time.

a) I agree + reason...:
That's right, because....
That's just what I think.
I couldn't agree more...
Sure, because...
You've got the point there...
That seems reasonable...
Beyond all doubt.
I guessed as much.

b) I don't agree or I partly agree + reason:
I can't agree with you, there... That's not quite the way I see it.
I see what you're getting at, but... I'm afraid you've missed the point...
It's just the other way round.

c) Avoiding giving an opinion:
Do you think so? I really
don't know, I'm afraid.
I'm not really sure. It's difficult to say...

I suppose it depends on your point of view.

d) I doubt + reason:

It's hardly likely/ most unlikely that...
Do you really mean? Are you serious?
Things do happen. I should say so.
I find it hard to believe.
Sounds promising /incredible/ highly
improbable, but...
You never know.

Unit 2. The Unexplained.

Discussion point.

In our life we often encounter some phenomena difficult to explain. they are often called **paranormal**.

- What are they?
- Can any of them be explained logically?
- What is the sixth sense?

Vocabulary development.

The Six Senses

A. Our basic five senses are sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. What is sometimes referred as a 'sixth sense' is a power to be aware of things independently of the five physical senses, a kind of supernatural sense. The five basic verbs referring to the senses are modified by an adjective rather than an adverb.

He *looks* dreadful. The trip *sounds* marvelous. The cake *tastes* good.

It *felt* strange. The soup *smelt* delicious.

B. Sight.

Look at the verbs of seeing in the text below.

Yesterday I glanced out of the window and noticed a man observing a house opposite through a telescope. I thought I glimpsed a woman inside the house. Then I saw someone else peering into the window of the same house. I gazed at them wondering what they were doing. Suddenly the first

man stopped staring through his telescope. He went and I saw the other one on the head with the telescope and I realized that I witnessed a crime.

C. Hearing.

The following scale relates to the sense of hearing and how loud things are.

Noiseless – silent – quiet – noisy – loud – deafening

D. Taste.

Some different tastes with an example of a typical food.

Sweet (honey) salty (crisps) bitter (strong coffee) sour (vinegar)
spicy (Indian food)

If you say something tastes hot it may mean **spicy** rather than not cold. Food can be **tasty** but **tasteful** is used to refer to furnishings, architecture or style of dressing or behaviour. The opposite of both is **tasteless**.

E. Touch

Some good verbs for describing different ways of touching.

She nervously *fingered* her collar.

He *stroked* the cat and *patted* the dog.

She *tapped* him on the shoulder.

He *grasped* my hand and we ran.

She *grabbed* her bag and ran. It's rude to *snatch*.

Press the

button.

Please *handle* the goods with great care.

The secretaries complained that their boss was always *pawing* them.

F. Smell.

These adjectives describe how something smells.

stinking evil-smelling smelly aromatic scented
 fragrant sweet-smelling perfumed

G. Sixth sense.

Different phenomena which a person with sixth sense may experience.
 (Highlight these words):

telepathy ghosts UFOs premonitions intuition déjà vu

I. Make a sentence using any of these verbs, *look, sound, taste, touch and smell*, plus an adjective about the situations:

Example: You see a film about the Rocky Mountains. *They look magnificent.*

1. You come downstairs in the morning and smell fresh coffee.
2. A friend has just had her hair cut.
3. You hear the record that is top of the pops.
4. A friend, an excellent cook, tries a new soup recipe.
5. A friend asks you how you feel today.
6. A little boy asks you to listen to his first attempts at the piano.
7. You see a friend of yours with a very worried look on her face.
8. Someone you are working with smells strongly of cigarettes.

II. Which of the verbs in the text in B suggests looking:

- 1 on as a crime or accident occurs?
- 2 closely, finding it hard to make things out?
- 3 in a scientific kind of way?
- 4 quickly? 5 fixedly?

III. Replace the underlined words with a more interesting and precise verb:

- 1) I saw a crime. 5) He touched the cat affectionately.
- 2) He looked fixedly at me. 6) The zoologist looked at the lion's behaviour.

30

- 3) She took my hand firmly.
- 7) The robber took the money and ran.
- 4) Touch the button to start.
- 8) I quickly looked at my watch.

IV. Are the following best described as *sweet, salty, bitter, sour, spicy or hot*?

- 1) unsweetened coffee 2) pineapple 3) chilli 4) lime
- 5) Chinese cooking 6) sea water

V. Match the verbs used in E with these definitions:

- 1 to take something very quickly 3 to touch with the hands
- 2 to move between the fingers 4 to touch in an offensive way

VI. Which of the adjectives in F describes best for you the smell of the following?

- 1 herbs in a kitchen 2 old socks 3 rotten eggs
- 4 roses 5 a baby's bottom 6 a hairdresser's

VII. Which of the phenomena mentioned in G have you experienced if you:

- 1 see a flying saucer?
- 2 suddenly think of someone two minutes before they phone you?
- 3 see someone in white disappearing into a wall?
- 4 feel certain someone cannot be trusted although you have no real reason to believe so?
- 5 walk into a strange room and feel you have been there before?
- 6 refuse to travel on a plane because you feel something bad is going to happen?

VIII. Write a few sentences about the most remarkable experiences each of your six senses has had.

31

IX. How superstitious are you? Do this quiz and find out:

- 1) Do you believe in ghosts?
- 2) Would you walk through a cemetery on your own at midnight?
- 3) You see a ladder against a wall. Do you walk under it?
- 4) You hear a strange noise in your house in the middle of the night. Do you go and see what it is?
- 5) You see a strange light in the sky. Do you think it is a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) from another planet?
- 6) Do you believe Uri Geller can bend metal spoons with his mind?
- 7) A black cat walks in front of you, is it good?
- 8) Do you believe it is possible to talk to dead people?

If you answered yes to three or more then you are superstitious. Take care on the 31st of October. If your answers were mainly no then you are very practical. But you may get a surprise at Hallowe'en.

Reading

X. a) Read the following stories and answer these questions:

- 1) Were you surprised, interested, inspired or amused by what you read?
- 2) Can any explanation be given?

Coincidences

In 1989 the *Observer* newspaper asked readers to send in their experiences of coincidences in their own lives. The next year they published some of the stories they received. Here are three of them. Read them without a dictionary. Which is the most interesting?

1. A 'Small World' encounter occurred in 1936 to Peter Elstob, novelist, historian and vice-president of PEN. Twenty years old at the time, he was window-gazing outside Lillywhite's Piccadilly sports shop when a middle-aged American who had been standing beside him asked him for some advice.

Would it be all right to send a tennis racket to the daughter of the family he had been staying with or would they consider it over the top? Elstob reassured him.

The American then went on to say he had been unable to find the address of a young man to whom friends in the United States had asked him to deliver a letter. The man was not in the telephone directory, and nobody he had asked had been able to help him.

'He showed me the letter, it was addressed to me. I can still remember the shock, the shiver, the wild suspicion that he must have known who I was. But that was impossible'.

It was not a significant coincidence, Elstob comments. All the writer wanted was his address, and he never met the American again. 'I have no explanation other than one in a million chances do come up one in a million times.'

2. Flying out to the South of France to interview Graham Greene in the summer of 1988, Graham Lord, Literary Editor of the *Sunday Express*, found that Greene had booked him into a hotel in Antibes; but because a friend, Julian ('Jules') Lewis, had decided to come with him, they cancelled the booking in order to stay instead at Jules's favourite hotel, the Auberge du Colombier in Roquefort-les-Pins.

'At the hotel Jules and I were lying by the swimming pool when there was a telephone call from London for "Mr. Lewis". It turned out to be another Mr. Lewis who was also lying by the pool, and he turned out to be an old schoolfriend of Jules whom he had not seen for 30 years. They started reminiscing about their schooldays, and I was introduced to the other Mr. Lewis's wife, another "Jules" Lewis (Juliet), whom I knew immediately was going to be very important in my life.

'It was love at first sight. Eight weeks later she left her husband, and I left my wife, and we have since lived together with astonishing happiness. For both of us it was like coming home.'

3. Mrs. May Badman has often had intuitive experiences, 'knowing when a good or bad thing is going to happen, or a person I know well is going to ring, write or visit'; but one episode sticks out in her mind.

'I often used the diesel train to town and for years had the habit of getting into the first carriage.

'One morning I was, as usual, at the end of the platform, but just as the train came in, I suddenly found myself running down the

platform towards the end of the train. When the train stopped I was more than half-way down.

'When it arrived at St Pancras the train crashed into the buffers. In my carriage we were all thrown about but not seriously hurt. I was very shaken, and when I left the carriage and walked the length of the train, the further along I got toward the front the worse the situation of the passengers was, and near the front people were bleeding and crying. Five ambulances were called to take away the injured.'

b) What are the main points? Do the tasks; you can look back at the stories.

1. *First story*: here is a summary of the first story, with mistakes. Copy it, correcting the mistakes.

Peter Elstob is an American who was approached by a stranger outside a sports shop. The man wanted advice on where to buy a tennis racket. Then the man showed Elstob a letter that had been received by some friends in America; the friends wanted him to find out who had written it. The letter was from Elstob.

2. *Second story*: put one or more words in each gap.

Graham Lord traveled to ...1... on business. He went with a ...2... Jules' Lewis, and changed ...3... to stay at Mr. Lewis's ...4... An ...5... of Jules Lewis, also called Lewis, was also staying at ...6... Graham Lord and the schoolfriend's ...7... (whose nickname was ...8...) fell in ...9..., and they are still ...10....

3. *Third story*: finish the summary.

Mrs. May Badman often took the train... One morning when the train came in she began... When the train arrived... The people in Mrs. Badman's carriage..., but...

c) Guessing words from context. Do the tasks for each story.

1. *First story*: look back at the text, and match the words and expressions in the first column with their meanings in the second column. (There are too many meanings).

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| a. encounter | 1. accidental meeting |
| b. over the top | 2. idea about the cause of something |
| c. shiver | 3. nervous laughter at something that is not really funny |
| d. suspicion | 4. shaking that happens when someone is afraid or shocked |
| | 5. too cheap for the situation |
| | 6. too expensive for the situation |

2. *Second story*: find words or expressions in the second story that seem to mean:

- a. happened by chance to be b. surprising

3. *Third story*: what do you think these words and expressions mean in the story?

sticks out, carriage, buffers, shaken

4. *All the stories*: write down a list of five words that you would like to look up in the dictionary. Show your list to a partner, and discuss your reasons for choosing the words you did. Look the words up after class.

XI. a) Read these five texts and answer the questions given below:

Chance Encounters

There can be few stories as enigmatic as the following.

Erskine Lawrence Ebbin was knocked off his moped by a taxi and killed in Hamilton, Bermuda. It was the same taxi with the same driver, carrying the same passenger, that killed his brother Neville in July the previous year. Both brothers were 17 when they died, and had been riding the same moped in the same street. Ah! But history never quite repeats itself – the time of both accidents differed by (only) 50 minutes.

But perhaps the most remarkable tale of a chance encounter is that of young Roger Lausier. When he was four years old he stayed away from his mother along the beach at Salem, Massachusetts. He

paddled for a while and then got caught by a powerful undercurrent, and would have drowned but for a woman who brought him ashore and revived him. The rescuer refused all rewards, and left wishing the infant luck. Nine years later, Roger was a strong swimmer and was tracking a shoal of bluefish when he heard a woman scream: 'My husband is drowning! My husband is drowning!' Roger saw that a heavily-built man had fallen from his powerboat and was floundering helplessly. He paddled his inflated raft over in time to clutch the drowning man's hand, and kept him afloat until another boat got to them, and they went safely ashore. In the hospital the grateful woman kissed the boy: 'I'm Alice Blaise, and I can't thank you enough for saving my Bob.' Roger had no idea who Mrs. Blaise was until the story came out during a presentation to him by the Massachusetts Humane Society. He had saved the husband of the woman who had saved him on the same beach nine years previously.

(from 'The Best of Portean Times')

Same Names

Confusion reigned in Bulawayo Magistrates' Court. Smart Ngwenya, waiting to give evidence in a different case, was brought into the court room. The mistake was realized after the charge had been read and denied. Embarrassed court officials hustled him out and led in another Smart Ngwenya (ngwenya means crocodile) who also turned out to be the wrong man. The 'correct' Smart Ngwenya was brought in at the third attempt.

Patricia Kern of Colorado was sent a tax demand for \$3000 from a job she had held in Oregon, a state in which she had never set foot. Inquiries showed that Patricia DiBiasi of Oregon owed the taxes. Both were born Patricia Ann Campbell, on 13 March 1941, and shared a social security number. Both had fathers called Robert, both married military men within 11 days of each other, both worked as bookkeepers and had children of 21 and 19.

In January 1985 Peter Bacon of Eyam, Derbyshire, crashed in to a car driven by Peter Bacon of North Anston, Sheffield. A couple of months later, John Stott, whose car crash was witnessed by Bernard Stott (no relation), and investigated by a police officer called Tina Stott, was taken

back to a police station where the three people were met by desk sergeant Walter Stott.

(from 'The Best of Portean Times')

Love Will Find a Way

In New York on business in 1980, writer Ian Livingston was invited by a friend to spend a week in Cape Cod.

On the second night there, they went to a local bar, where they met two girls, and Ian ended up talking to Jane. 'The four of us spent a lot of the remainder of the week together. Although Jane was English, she was spending an indefinite time in the USA, and we did not bother to exchange addresses.

'The next holiday I had was in Corfu in late August. There I met an Irish girl, Elizabeth. At the end of the holiday we did exchange addresses, as she was living in Manchester; my parents live in Manchester.

'At the end of October I phoned Elizabeth, told her I was coming to visit them, and suggested we go out for a drink. She agreed. So it was that on a wet, early November night I rang the bell of a flat in Manchester. The door opened and there, looking as aghast as I was, stood Jane. Elizabeth and Jane shared a flat.'

(from 'Coincidence' by Brian Inglis)

No Escape From Love

'Over 50 years ago - when I was a very young man - I had an intense affair with a beautiful woman somewhat older than myself.' Michael Relph nostalgically recalls.

The woman told her husband she was leaving; drunk and emotional, he stormed off threatening to take his life. Back at Relph's flat, she seemed unmoved, 'but I found the responsibility too great. I told her that at all costs she must find him and stop him committing suicide.' She left the flat to look for her husband.

Such was Relph's distress over losing her that he decided he must go somewhere with no associations which could remind him of the ignominious end of his first love affair; and this prompted him to visit a distant relative, a bank manager in a small Sussex town.

'He invited me to luncheon. As he took me across the deserted market square to his local pub for a pre-lunch drink, my gloom lifted a little in the knowledge that there was nothing here to remind me of my lost love and no possibility of chance encounter.'

'A hotel stood centrally in the square and at its entrance a car drew up. The two people who got out as we approached were my lover and her husband. We were the only people in the little square.'

Many years later, when the romance was briefly rekindled, she told Ralph how much she, too, had dreaded such an encounter. 'She and her husband had only decided to eat at the hotel because they had taken the wrong road. Neither of us had ever been in the town before, and had she or I been one minute earlier or later, we would have missed one another.'

Like Father, Like Son

A few years ago Mary Taylor had gone to London with her son to see the Chinese Exhibition then at the British Museum.

Her son, then aged 19, had not seen his father since he was 18 months old. In the exhibition, he and his mother became separated. 'He returned to me, ashen white, and said, "Don't think me silly, but I have just met my father. I know it is him. We just came face to face and I knew". I went across with my and realized that it was indeed my one-time lover, and that he, too, from the expression of shock on his face, had recognized my son. (They are actually very similar in appearance, and were even wearing identical spectacle-frames.)

'We all went for a drink, and he told us that he had been in London for a meeting and had suddenly had a compulsive urge to leave it and go to the exhibition, taking a taxi to reach it.'

(from 'Coincidence' by Brian Inglis)

b) Referring back to the stories, prove that:

- 1) In some situations encounters may not be considered as coincidence.
- 2) Like begets like.
- 3) There is no escape from love.

Provide these statements with some episodes or situations based on your own experience.

XII. a) Read the following story and answer the questions:

Another Time, Another Place

When Nuala Walshe was introduced to Des, a tall handsome Australian who was visiting her remote village in the west of Ireland, she was delighted to meet the newcomer and their friendship swiftly blossomed into a closer relationship. Nuala, who had been brought up by an aunt after her mother died, was excitedly looking forward to her engagement day.

'On the day, Des had been invited by my aunt to have tea, I produced a letter of congratulations from my father who was living in England. I got the shock of my life when Des snatched the letter out of my hand and, in a fearful rage, tore it to pieces.

'Suddenly the room grew cold and I felt a strange cold draught. As I looked over at Des, I became terrified, because standing behind his chair was the figure of a dark-haired young man watching me with concern. I froze with fear and in an instant the man disappeared.

'Des had gone deathly white. He was staring into space as if he were looking at something behind my chair. Suddenly he passed out and collapsed on the floor.

'When he'd recovered, he said that a woman had appeared behind my chair. I didn't dare tell him what I had seen. When my aunt showed Des an old photograph of my mother, he told us it was the same woman.

'Des left on his own and as he walked to the gate he became aware of the cold atmosphere again, even though it was a beautiful warm August day. He stared in horror as he saw the bolt in the gate opening for him, as if bidding him to leave.

'As he drove away from the cottage, a woman loomed up in front of the car. He panicked as he recognized my dead mother. She was pointing to the distance, as if telling him to go away.

'When he arrived home and got out of the car, to his great relief the woman was nowhere to be seen.

'The next day Des told me the engagement was off because he was certain my mother was trying to frighten him away.

'To get over the disappointment, I decided to visit my father and his new wife, Betty, in England. When there was a ring on the doorbell, Betty said it was probably her nephew, Jim.

'I couldn't believe my eyes when Jim entered the room. He was the man I had seen standing behind Des in my aunt's cottage. I was even more amazed when he smiled and said, 'Haven't we met before some place?'

- What did Nuala see behind Des's chair?
- What did Des see behind Nuala's chair?
- Who was it?
- What happened as he was driving away?
- Who was Jim?
- What do you think happens next?
- Write down all the expressions connected to fear and surprise.

b) 1) How do you feel about ghost stories like this? Do you feel ;

afraid/ sceptical/ amused?

2) Do you know any good ghost stories or have you seen any good ghost films? Tell each other the story and how you felt about it.

c) The following vocabulary is connected to the paranormal. Match the expressions to the definitions below.

1 spontaneous combustion 2 levitation 3 clairvoyancy

- a) when somebody or something rises into the air, because of spiritualist powers;
- b) burning, (usually unexplained) caused by chemical changes;
- c) being able to see things (in the future) by a special power.

d) Match each of the paranormal beliefs above to one of the extracts below.

1. One night in December 1868 three gentlemen of 'unimpeachable reputation' sat together in the dark in an apartment on the upper floor of Ashley House in London. One of them was Lord Lindsay, a

notable scientist, the second was Lord Adare, and the third his cousin, Captain Charles Wynne. All three were silent, nervous and tense as though waiting for something extraordinary to happen.

After a few minutes they heard the window in the next room being raised and almost immediately saw the figure of Daniel Dunglas Home floating in the air outside the window of the room in which they were sitting. He must have been at least eighty feet from the ground. Lord Lindsay wrote later: 'The moon was shining full into the room... I saw Home's feet about six inches above the window sill. He remained in this position for a few seconds then raised the window, glided into the room feet foremost and sat down.' And Lord Adare gave his word: 'The fact of his having gone out of one window and in at the other, I can swear to.'

Although in his mature years Home could levitate at will and became best known to the general public for his spectacular drifting about in the air, he also levitated without seemingly being aware of it. On one occasion when his host drew his attention to the fact that he was hovering above the cushion in his armchair, Home seemed most surprised. To the end of his life he maintained that he could only fly through the air because he was lifted up by the spirits. 'Since the first time, I have never felt fear,' he wrote in his autobiography. 'Should I, however, have fallen from the ceiling of some rooms in which I have been raised, I could not have escaped serious injury. I am generally* lifted up perpendicularly; my arms frequently become rigid and are drawn above my head as if I were grasping the unseen power which slowly raises me from the floor...'

2. A year before the outbreak of the Second World War, Mrs. Mary Carpenter, on a boating holiday in East Anglia, burst into flames and was reduced to ashes in front of her horrified husband and children. There was no flame from which she could have caught fire.

3. Christine Ross has been 'receiving' messages since the age of ten. She 'saw' the man she was to marry and the pub they would live in. She also experiences visions: 'I have tried to switch off but it doesn't work. These days I try to go with it'. People say it is a

gift but it can only be that if I can learn how to use it. The most recent occasion was when a little boy went missing from Butlin's at Ayr. I saw a picture of him lying in a ditch at the bottom of a steep grassy slope. There was a hill nearby with trees at the top. I rang the police incident room and told them. Then on the Sunday afternoon I told a friend that I felt the boy had been found. The next day it was in the paper, he was found in the Carrick hills and the photograph was the 'picture' I had received.

e) Look through all the texts again quickly and try to answer the following questions. Work in pairs and try to work out the meaning of any vocabulary you don't know.

1. Could Douglas Home levitate when he wanted to?
2. How did he do it, according to him?
3. Where was Mrs. Carpenter when she burst into flames?
4. What 'picture' did Christine Ross receive?

f) Do you know any similar stories? Tell each other stories you know, in groups.

XIII. a) Read the following stories and match them to the phenomena which a person with sixth sense may experience:

telepathy; ghosts; premonitions; intuition; déjà vu

Strange Tales Indeed!

In May 1957 seven people were sitting in a dining room just after lunch. Suddenly a man in brown walked past the open door into the kitchen. Four of the people saw him, and one got up to ask him what he wanted. The man had vanished, yet he could not have left the house unseen. Only then did the people realize that they must have seen a ghost.

This happened near Sydney, Australia, one evening in 1873. Six weeks after Captain Towns died, his married daughter entered a bedroom where there was a burning gas lamp. Reflected in the shiny surface of the wardrobe was a 'portrait' of her father. His thin, pale face, and grey flannel

jacket were unmistakable. A young lady who was with the daughter saw the image too. They called other members of the household. Altogether eight people came and marveled at the apparition. But when the Captain's widow tried to touch it, the image faded away.

An old man was seen trudging home through a stormy night, dressed only in pyjamas. The driver who passed him on the road discovered that the old man had died three weeks before.

One night in 1976, a woman awoke to see a tall, thin, female figure in her bedroom. The phantom pressed skinny fingers around the woman's throat as if to strangle her. Then the grip relaxed, and the figure faded. Later, the victim described the ghost to her fiancé. The description fitted his long-dead Malaysian grandmother.

In 1964 a huge press was accidentally set moving inside a Detroit car factory. A nearby worker claimed his life was saved only by a tall, scarred black man who pushed him clear of the machinery. No one with him saw that person, but some recognized the description. It fitted a black worker accidentally killed there 20 years before.

In the middle 1800s, a young girl was walking down an English country lane. Suddenly she seemed to see her mother lying on a bedroom floor. The girl fetched a doctor and they found her mother exactly as the girl described her. The mother had fallen with a heart attack. Luckily the doctor arrived in time to save her life.

In 1926, two women on a country walk near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, England, saw a big house in a garden surrounded by a high wall. Soon afterwards they passed that way again. They found only overgrown waste land that had not been disturbed for years.

(from 'The Piccolo Explorer Book of Mysteries')

b) Discuss these stories with your partners.

XIV. 1) Some people have suffered strange experiences, when they feel that they have been taken out of their body. Some

experiences are more dramatic and are better termed 'Near Death Experiences'. The experiences are not necessarily bad but are often connected with illness and can leave a strong effect on the person concerned.

Which of these words, if any, do you associate with death? Add any others you can think of.

terror; peace; detachment; darkness; light; joy; music; white; blue; black; tunnel; mist; float; despair; pain; relief

Out of Body Experience

2) a There are six stages associated with 'Near Death Experiences'. From what you heard before, what order do you think they come in?

1. Entering the darkness which leads to light.
2. Arrival at 'heaven'.
3. A change of personality.
4. The 'out of body' experience.
5. The return.
6. An altered state – a feeling of peace.

b Read the texts and put them in order.

c Match each paragraph to the relevant heading in 2a.

1. Then they regain consciousness – it is a feeling which has been described as being pulled back like a piece of elastic. They start to feel pain again, and also feel very distressed about having returned.
2. Then there is usually a strange buzzing noise in the ears and a feeling as if the soul has escaped from the body. In some cases it is attached to the top of the head at first, by a silvery cord, but that eventually floats away. People who have NDEs at this point sometimes hover near the ceiling

and often feel that it is a bit silly or boring. Or they sometimes float about the hospital, eavesdropping on people's conversations, which can be useful evidence later.

3. People often change quite a lot as a result of it. They are less worried about the material aspects of life and more interested in the spiritual, although some people who have previously been very religious might not be interested in their religion any more. Nobody who has suffered an NDE ever fears death again and many of them are fascinated by the paranormal.
4. Most people describe it as a garden full of a magical light and (usually blue) colour. At times wonderful music can be heard. The NDErs look around the place and meet relatives and friends who have died. These deceased relatives and friends often tell them things about the future which often come true. But the experience ends here, with the NDErs being told they have to return and finish their time on earth.
5. Next is the feeling of being pulled very fast up a dark tunnel with a bright light at the end. Some people see a bright figure at the end. One would expect them to be afraid, but people say they felt incredibly excited and happy, and had warm feelings. Some NDErs are told to go back at this stage because they are not ready to die. However, most people beg to be allowed to stay and if they do they arrive at their destination.
6. If they are about to die it is either because a person is critically ill or has been in a serious accident and therefore they are usually in great pain or suffering great terror, which is not helped by the distress of the relatives of this person. Suddenly, however, there is a feeling of peace and great happiness.

d What is said in these texts which is not mentioned by the people who phoned in? (see or listen to the text 'Near Death Experience').

Listening

- XV. 1) This is the first line and the last line of another ghost story. The title is 'The Dress'. In groups, guess what happens.

This story is about a bloke who was driving home one night late at night... They opened the wardrobe and in the wardrobe they found this white dress, soaking wet.

- 2) a) Listen to the story. How different was it to yours?
b) Who was the little girl and why do you think she appeared to the speaker?

- XVI. Listen to a phone-in on the radio with people who have had a 'Near Death Experience'

a Listen to each of the three extracts, and complete the sentences below:

Tom:

- 1 Tom fell into the sea because....
- 2 He saw.... before he 'came back'.
- 3 Afterwards, in hospital, he felt...

Susan:

- 1 Susan was in hospital... when things started to go wrong.
- 2 She saw... and felt...
- 3 She wanted to return because...

Jane:

- 1 Jane floated....
- 2 She heard... and saw....
- 3 She was told... and returned to hospital.

b Do these extracts confirm your views of what death might be like?

c Which of the words in XIV 1) above do they use when describing their experiences?

Discussion Activity

- XVII. Think up a story about a coincidence (intuition, premonition, telepathy, déjà vu, UFOs, etc.) that has happened to you or someone you know.

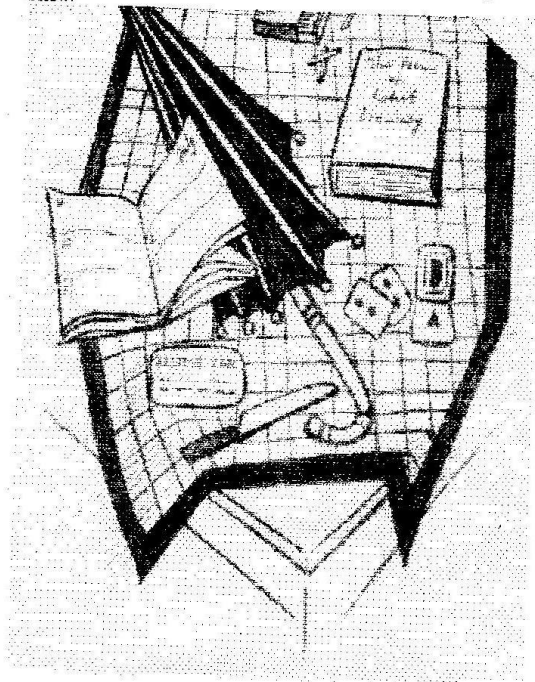
- XVIII. Think about a big surprise in your life (good or bad).

- XIX. Read the following abstracts; comment on them and discuss them with your partner:

- a) Susie heard two Frenchmen talking of them: (Margaret and Haddo). She flushed as she heard one of them make an observation about Margaret which was more than coarse. The other laughed. "It is incredible," he said.
"I assure you it's true. They have been married six months, and she is still only his wife in name. The superstitious through all the ages have believed in the power of virginity, and the Church has made use of the idea for its ends. The man uses her simply as a mascot."
- b) It was said that Haddo had magical powers of extraordinary character, and the tired imagination of those pleasure-seekers was tickled by his talk of black art. Some even asserted that the blasphemous ceremonies of the Black Mass had been celebrated in the house of a Polish Prince. People babbled of satanism and of necromancy. Haddo was thought to be immersed in occult studies for the performance of a magical operation; and some said that he was occupied with *the Magnum Opus*, the greatest and most fantastic of alchemic experiments. Gradually these stories were narrowed down to the monstrous assertion that he was attempting to create living beings.

(from W. Somerset Maugham "The Magician")

XX. Invent a ghost story based on the pictures below.



48

XXI. Complete the following stories:

- a) Some years ago a man picked a winning number on the draw. The prize was a car which he was to get only in a month according to the lottery rules. But unfortunately the man died in a week and didn't get it. A few weeks after the funerals his relatives remembered that the deceased had won a prize but they couldn't find the lottery ticket. So they decided that the man had been buried with the lottery ticket in the pocket of his suit. So the grave was dug out and when the coffin was opened, everybody saw that there was no dead body in it...
- b) It happened in the 1930s. A man used to write and send letters to imaginary addressees and addresses. But the letters returned as there were neither addressees nor addressees he had invented. Once he wrote a letter, having invented the name of the town, of the street, the name of the addressee and sent it to New Zealand...

Read the end of the stories (on p. 59) and say how different was it to yours. Try to explain them.

XXII. Debating the Issue:

You are going to take part in a panel discussion entitled 'Near Death Experiences - Fact or Fiction?'

1. Preparation for the Debate:

a Write down a list of points either for or against the idea of Near Death Experiences. Use the suggested ideas to help you.

b Try to anticipate the arguments the other group are going to come up with and think of an answer to them.

c Think of as many ways of giving opinions and agreeing and disagreeing as you can. Look at the Useful Language. Which expressions do you think are the most and least strong?

d Include in your arguments evidence from a 'real life witness', - one of your group can pretend to have had an NDE.

49

Work in groups. One Group (Group A) is going to defend the motion and the other Group (Group B) is going to attack it.

2. Procedure

- A chairperson from the whole group will open the panel discussion and invite representatives from each side to speak. Give each side a time limit.
- Invite questions and comments from the rest of the group.
- Take a vote on which side was most convincing.
- The chairperson should make a few concluding remarks.

3. In pairs write a plan for an essay "Do Near Death Experiences Really Exist?"

- Introduction (background) – what they are, and why they're important.
- The case for.
- The case against.
- Your opinion and conclusion.

Group A: Ideas.

- Take a list of all the reasons you can think of as to why the experiences should be taken seriously.
- Decide in what order you should make the points.
- Have "a real life witness" to give his /her experience as convincingly as possible.
- Think of questions which you will ask the other group, or points you will make, to try to defeat their argument.
- Appoint two "spokespeople" to present the case, as well as the "witness /witnesses".

Useful Language

Giving Opinions:

In my opinion... I think /I believe...

It is clear /obvious that....

There is no doubt that....

Agreeing:

Exactly! I couldn't agree any more...

(I agree) absolutely. You've got a point, but...
Possibly, but... (see also p. 27-28)

Disagreeing:

Do you really think so?

I'm sorry, but I just can't accept that.

That's ridiculous /impossible.

You can't be serious. (see also p. 27-28)

Group B: Ideas.

Think of as many reasons as you can why these experiences cannot really be valid and try to suggest other explanations for them. Make a list of these reasons.

Example: The out of body sensation is really a trick of the mind and really the floating is based on memory and imagination. The dark tunnels are the visual cells which are not working well, as people are dying. It could be due to lack of oxygen.

One of you should invent a "negative" experience that you had, which you think disproves the other experiences you heard or read about above. Argue for it being the effect of drugs, etc. when you are very ill.

Decide in what order you will make the points.

Think of questions to ask the other group or points to put to them which may defeat their argument.

Decide on two "spokespeople" from your group as well as a "witness" who will present your case.

XXIII. Write an imaginary letter to Steve Redmond, the producer of the radio programme, telling him about your / or someone you know "Out of the Body" or "Near Death Experiences".

Unit 3. Fears and Phobias

Discussion point.

1. How afraid are you of the following:

Score 1 to 10 for each one, 1 being total calm and 10 being absolutely panic.

- Being stuck in the lift
- Standing on top of a tall building
- Being all alone in the middle of the countryside
- Flying in planes
- The dark
- Crowds
- Snakes
- Spiders
- Mice
- Violence
- Thunderstorms
- Public speaking

II. Conduct a group survey to find out what the most common fears and phobias are amongst your groupmates.

- III - What is a phobia?
- Can they be explained?
 - Are they born out of bad experience or ignorance?

Vocabulary Development

IV. Highlight the following words and match these definitions to the words you highlighted:

phobia; airphobia; nosophobia; necrophobia; kleptophobia; hydrophobia; maniaophobia; phobophobia; claustrophobia; arachnophobia;

- 1) fear of death or funerals;
- 2) a strong and usually unreasonable fear and dislike;
- 3) fear of flying by plane;
- 4) fear of having mental disease;
- 5) fear of water;
- 6) fear of having any kind of phobia;
- 7) fear of thieves;
- 8) fear of spiders;
- 9) fear of confined space;
- 10) fear of catching any disease;

V. Which of the phobias mentioned in ex. IV have you experienced if you:

- 1) have to fly by plane?
- 2) see a big spider?
- 3) are stuck in a lift?
- 4) see a dead man?
- 5) have fallen overboard far from the seacoast and nearly drowned?
- 6) have been robbed several times?

Reading

VI. Read the following text and answer the questions given below:

Fear is Necessary

Not only is fear a very normal emotion, but it is also an essential emotion. To be totally without fear is to be in serious danger. Fear is an essential defence mechanism.

Fear is made up of an emotional feeling and a number of bodily changes. If we come face to face with a man wildly waving a hatchet we are likely to experience the emotion we describe as fear, and at the same time our hearts will start to race, our breathing will accelerate, and we may turn pale and sweat. We may experience an unpleasant sinking sensation in the stomach, weakness of the muscles, and trembling of the limbs. We may have a desire to micturate or vomit, and may in fact carry out some of these functions. These physical changes have been described as the 'fight or flight phenomenon', and they are the body's preparation for either of these actions. An increased heart rate pumps more blood to the muscles, so they are ready for action. An increase in breathing ensures that more oxygen is available for the same use. Sweating makes it more difficult for us to be grabbed, while making our hair stand up would be protective if we were still well covered with hair. For human beings getting our hair erect is rather a waste of time, as unfortunately are other body changes that have been described. Weakness of the muscles and shaking is not much use for

either fight or flight and neither are vomiting or micturating. It appears that for one reason or another the body's mechanism to deal with emergencies sometimes goes wrong; and this is not confined to human beings. Other animals also become paralysed with fear and actually die from it.

(from 'Fears and Phobias' by Dr Tony Whitehead)

- 1) Why is fear a very normal emotion?
- 2) What does a frightened man experience?
- 3) What physical changes are described as the 'fight or flight phenomenon'?
- 4) Can fear be so great that animals and people become paralysed with fear and actually can die from it? Provide some evidence.

VII. a) Read the following text and answer these questions:

- 1) Why was Jane labeled as a "problem patient"?
- 2) What does a "tea-fiend" mean?
- 3) Why was the text called "The Mystery Phobia"?

The Mystery Phobia

Jane Bruff was a 37-year-old married English woman who kept a fruitshop. Quite out of the blue she began to suffer 'attacks' of very rapid heartbeat which made her feel alarmed and panicky. She was able to put up with these funny turns at home, but when she began to get them on the street, she really began to worry. Eventually the fear of having an attack in public forced her to take a taxi even for the two-hundred-yard trip down the street to her fruitshop. If possible she preferred to stay indoors, and she became very anxious at the thought of having to step too far outside the familiar safety of her home.

Jane had not kept her suffering to herself; she had consulted her GP and a heart specialist. She was prescribed Sotalol, a drug used to correct abnormalities of the heart, but it did her no good.

Her persistent distress, combined with the fact that she showed no sign of having an identifiable organic problem, only succeeded in getting her

labeled as a 'problem patient'. Her specialist eventually told her there was nothing wrong with her heart and took her off the Sotalol.

Fortunately for Jane, a hospital consultant in her area had recently taken an interest in food allergy and had decided to test whether or not it was a genuine disease. He had talked about it to his colleagues, and Jane was referred to his clinic. He found out that Jane was a 'tea-fiend', drinking a dozen or more cups of tea a day. He tested her on several different occasions by putting a plastic tube down her throat (so she could not taste what was going into her stomach), and poured either coffee, tea, or water down it from an opaque syringe (so Jane could not see what was going into the tube).

Every time tea or coffee was tested, after two and a half hours, Jane's heartbeat suddenly shot up from the regular normal 70 beats a minute to 250 beats, an alarming rate, which brought back her old feeling of panic.

Jane was asked to give up coffee and tea. It worked; within a very short time she had lost all her symptoms, was happy to walk down the street, and had returned to her job and a normal social life.

(from 'Eating and Allergy' by Robert Eagle)

c) Referring back to the text, prove that:

Some fears and phobias appear to be misleading and can be explained scientifically.

Listening

VIII. Listen to the text and answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the most common phobias?
- 2) How do people react in these situations?
- 3) What can these phobias result in?
- 4) How can people be helped to overcome their phobias?

Discussion Activity

IX. Think of the phobias according to the following classification:

- 1) General; 2) Situation; 3) Social; 4) Age.

X. Think of a time in your life when you were very frightened – either as a child or as an adult.

XI. Work in groups. Discuss these points:

- Do you know anyone who is very afraid of something, like spiders or heights?
- Describe the fear how it makes the person feel and act, and what he or she has tried to do about it.
- Give some advice for a person who is afraid of small closed spaces, or speaking in public, or aeroplanes.

XII. Read the quotations and comment on them. Provide these quotations with some episodes or situations based on your own experience.

To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead.

(Bertrand Russell)

And I will show you something different from either
Your shadow at morning striding behind you,
Or your shadow at evening rising to meet you
I will show you fear in a handful of dust.

(T. S. Eliot)

Let us begin anew – remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

(John F. Kennedy)

Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other.

(Francis Bacon)

Alas! The love of women! It is

known
To be a lovely and a fearful thing!
(Lord Byron)

You may take the most gallant sailor, the most intrepid airman, or the most audacious soldier, put them at a table together – what do you get?
The sum of their fears.
(Winston Churchill)

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.
(Franklin D. Roosevelt)

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want.

And the fourth is freedom from fear.

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)

Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.
(from 'Julius Caesar' by Shakespeare)

Through the Jungle very softly flits a shadow and a sigh-
He is Fear, O Little Hunter, he is Fear!
(Rudyard Kipling)

It is a miserable state of mind to have few things to desire and many things to fear.
(Francis Bacon)

As for me, I see no such great cause why I should either be fond to live or fear to die. I have had good experience of this world, and I know what it is to be a subject and what to be a sovereign. Good neighbours I have had, and I have met with bad: and in trust I have found treason.

(Queen Elizabeth I)

XIII. Work in groups. Here is a statement. Discuss your reaction to it with your partner. Give your argument /counterargument, using the expressions and the procedure, given on p. 49-51.

Fear is the main source of superstition, and one of the main sources of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom, in the pursuit of truth as in the endeavour after a worthy manner of life.

(Bertrand Russell).

Appendix I

XXI. Read the end of the stories, given on p. 49.

a) The relatives decided to make inquiries about the lottery ticket and the car in the lottery office that gave prizes. It turned out that it was a sexton who had got the lottery ticket and the car as he used to excavate graves, undress dead bodies, sever them and bury them in another place.

b) In some time he got a letter from the man whose name and address was exactly the same he had invented. It was a great surprise. Moreover, in his letter the man from New Zealand answered all the questions posed to him in the letter that had been sent to him by the man who used to send letters to imaginary addresses and addresses.

Appendix II Superstitions and Prejudices (Additional Information)

1. **Amulet** is a charm that supposedly has magic power. It may be worn around the neck. Some people believe that amulets protect them from evil, sickness, and witchcraft. Amulets may be made of any material, but many are made of stone. Others are small cloth bags filled with a supposedly powerful object. A tooth or a piece of horn or wood can also serve as an amulet. Some amulets have a symbolic shape, such as crescent. (See a Birthstone).

2. **Augur** was the title given to people in ancient Rome who interpreted signs for government officials. Romans believed that the gods revealed their wishes through certain signs or omens, such as thunder and lightning, the flight and cries of birds, the movement of serpents. Officials sought the advice of augurs before beginning important tasks. They might delay or cancel great ventures or call off public meetings, if the augurs reported unfavourable signs. Officials used only three augurs in the early Roman Republic. By the 40's B.C., however, they used 16. Some augurs misused the power of their positions to further their own ambitions.

Augurs dressed in a trabea (white garment with a purple border). They belonged to the patrician (aristocratic) class. Today, we use the word augury to mean a happening or an omen that supposedly reveals what will happen in the future.

3. Birthstone is a gem associated with a month of the year. According to tradition, a birthstone brings good luck to person born in its month. Each birthstone also corresponds to a sign of the zodiac. However, the birth dates for each sign do not match the beginning and end of each month.

Birthstones:

This table shows the gem or gems accepted by most jewellers as the birthstone for each month, and the characteristic and sign of the zodiac associated with each

stone. The birth dates for the signs do not match the beginning and the end of the months.

| Month | Gem or gems | Characteristic | Sign of Zodiac |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| January | Garnet | Constancy | Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18) |
| February | Amethyst | Sincerity | Pisces (Feb.20-March 20) |
| March | Aquamarine | Courage | Aries (March 21-Apr.19) |
| April | Bloodstone | Innocence | Taurus (Apr.20-May 20) |
| May | Diamond | Love | Gemini (May 21-June 20) |
| June | Emerald | Health | Cancer (June 21-July 22) |
| July | Pearl Alexandrite Moonstone | Contentment | Leo (July 23-Aug.22) |
| August | Ruby | Married happiness | Virgo (Aug.23-Sept.22) |
| September | Peridot Sardonix | Clear thinking | Libra (Sept.23-Oct.22) |
| October | Sapphire | Hope | Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21) |
| | Opal Tourmaline | | |

| | | | |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| November | Topaz | Faithfulness | Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21) |
| December | Turquoise Zircon | Wealth | Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19) |

The belief in birthstones may have come from a Bible story about Aaron, the first high priest of the Israelites. The story describes Aaron's breastplate, which was decorated with 12 precious stones. Early writers linked these stones with the 12 months of the year and the 12 signs of the zodiac. Today, many people wear their birthstones in jewelry to bring good luck.

4. Blarney Stone is a block of limestone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland. According to legend, anyone who kisses the stone receives the gift of expressive, convincing speech.

The stone was set in a tower of the castle in 1446. The legend may have begun after an old woman cast a spell to reward a king who had saved her from drowning, if the king kissed the stone while under the spell, he would gain the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly. Today, the word blarney means clever, flattering, or coaxing talk.

5. Divination is the practice of trying to learn about the unknown by magical or supernatural means. A diviner supposedly can learn about the past, present or future. Some diviners believe they can learn the causes of past events, such as a person's illness or death. Other diviners, called dowsers, claim they can find the location of underground water. Still others believe they can foretell events, such as when a person will die or whom a person will marry.

There are many kinds of divination. For example, necromancy involves communicating with the spirits of the dead. Astrology is an attempt to predict events by studying the positions of the sun, moon, stars, and planets. Some diviners interpret dreams to foretell events.

Another type of divination, called palimistry, involves the prediction of events by reading the lines and marks of the hand. Some fortunetellers claim to read messages in coffee grounds, tea leaves, dried mud, or crystal

balls. Others use tarot cards, a special pack of pictured playing cards, to tell the future. Tarot cards probably originated in Europe in the 1100's. Throughout history, people have believed in the powers of divination. In ancient Greece and Rome, prophets known as oracles foretold events by interpreting messages from the deities. Many people with important decisions to make consulted the oracle at Delphi, Greece.

At one time, courts used divination to determine the guilt or innocence of criminals. Divination in a trial was called an ordeal. For example, in many witch trials of the 1600's in Europe and colonial America, a suspected witch was tied up and thrown into water. If she sank, she was considered innocent. If she floated, she was considered a witch and was executed.

6. Evil eye is the supposed power to harm people or their possessions by merely looking at them. According to superstition, an evil person who has this power may use it to cause such misfortune as death, illness, or property damage. A person may also unknowingly have the evil eye and cause harm unintentionally. To avoid the evil eye, many people utter such phrases as "God bless you" or wear blue beads or other protective charms. For thousands of years, people in many parts of the world have believed in the evil eye. Today, the belief is fairly common in India and in the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

7. Exorcism is the act of breaking the power of the Devil or other evil spirits that influence or control a person. Exorcism presupposes the existence of the Devil as an evil force in the lives of people. The Devil's influence has many degrees. He can tempt a person to do something wrong, such as lie or commit a crime. He can even dominate an individual by temporarily taking control of the person's body.

When an evil spirit takes control of a person or of a person's actions, the individual is said to be possessed. A possessed person may go into convulsions, have extraordinary strength or shout cries - with no apparent explanation.

Possession is difficult to verify because the phenomenon could result from causes other than evil spirits. For example, a supposedly possessed person might really be suffering a mental or physical illness.

Some Christian denominations and other religions have ceremonies for driving out devils and evil spirits. The New Testament tells that Jesus Christ exorcised devils. In the Roman Catholic Church, an exorcism is a

ceremony that consists of a series of prayers recited over the possessed person.

In the A.D. 200's, the church established the office of exorcist, one who performs an exorcism. Priests hold this office but require a bishop's permission to perform an exorcism. The church's sacrament of baptism and the blessing of holy oil and holy water include prayers that ask God for protection from attacks by devils.

8. Fetish is an object that supposedly has magic powers. Many people worship bones, carved statues, unusual stones, and other objects as fetishes. In some societies, people carry such fetishes as a rabbit's foot or a "lucky penny to bring them good luck".

Europeans first learned about fetishism (the worship of fetishes) when Portuguese explorers colonized Africa during the late 1400's. Many African people had fetishes and treated them with great devotion and respect. Fetishism is a type of animism, the belief that lifeless things have a spirit. Fetish worshippers believe that the spirit protects them from evil and brings them good luck. A fetish may become an idol, the image of a god, if word of its power spreads beyond the community.

Psychiatrists use the term fetishist for a person who has an abnormal sexual attachment for a lifeless object. Such objects may include a lock of hair, a shoe, or a piece of clothing.

9. Fortunetelling is the practice of predicting future events by methods generally considered illogical and unscientific. Persons who claim to foretell the future are called fortunetellers.

Some fortunetellers say they possess a form of clairvoyance, that makes them aware of events before they occur. Clairvoyance is the knowledge of events, objects, or people without using any known senses. Scientists do not know whether clairvoyance actually exists. Most fortunetellers do not claim to have clairvoyant powers. Instead, they use special systems of prediction. Some of these systems are complicated, and fortunetellers often say they are scientific. But most scientists consider such systems to be pseudosciences (false sciences).

Fortunetelling has been especially popular during certain periods of history. For example, the ancient Greeks and Romans believed the gods spoke to them through prophets called oracles. Many people went to

oracles for advice about the future. In later times, the Christian church discouraged fortunetelling. However, an ancient type of fortunetelling called astrology became extremely popular in Europe during the Renaissance, the period from about 1300 to about 1600. Some forms of fortunetelling remain popular today, especially in primitive society and developing countries. Most people in the western world regard fortunetelling as a form of amusement, but many believe in it sincerely.

Methods of fortunetelling. Throughout history different fortunetelling methods have been used. One of the most famous methods involves gazing into a crystal ball. Many methods of fortunetelling seem to depend entirely on chance. For example, fortunetellers have made predictions based on the order in which a cock ate grains of wheat placed on letters drawn on the ground. Predictions also have been based on the shape taken by oil poured on water, or on segments of writing chosen from a book at random.

However, fortunetellers claim that mysterious causes and relationships, not chance, make their predictions possible! For example, astrology is based on the belief that the sun, moon, planets and stars control the lives of human beings. Therefore, the positions and movements of these celestial bodies supposedly can be used to predict the future.

Other fortunetelling systems include numerology and palmistry. In numerology a fortuneteller makes predictions through numbers based on a person's name and birth date. In palmistry, a fortuneteller tries to foresee an individual's future by studying the lines, markings, shape and the size of the person's hand.

Some fortunetellers only pretend to rely on special systems. For example, a fortuneteller may investigate a client's background and then impress the client by relating many things from his background information. A fortuneteller also may rely on a broad knowledge of human nature. The fortuneteller knows what most people want to hear and so makes statements about the future that could apply to almost anyone. The fortuneteller then observes the client's reactions to these statements and develops a more detailed prediction on the basis of these reactions.

Dangers of fortunetelling. Most fortunetelling is based on the idea that mysterious forces control human life. Therefore, a belief in fortunetelling may rob people of trust in their own ability to control the future. Also, some individuals have lost large sums of money to dishonest fortunetellers. Some people argue that honest fortunetellers may give harmless- and even sensible- advice to troubled people who cannot afford psychiatric help.

However, there have been cases of businesses and marriages being wrecked because a person has acted on bad advice given by a fortuneteller.

10. Friday is the 6th day of the week. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Frigedæg, which means Frigg's day. Frigg was a goddess of love in Norse mythology. The Scandinavians considered Friday their luckiest day. But people today associate Friday the 13th with bad luck. One explanation for this belief is that Christ was crucified on Friday, and 13 men were present at the Last Supper. People have called Friday hangman's day because it once was the day for the execution of criminals. In memory of the crucifixion, some Christians fast on Fridays, except on a feast day, such as Christmas. Christians observe Good Friday two days before Easter in memory of Christ's suffering. The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday. Friday is also a holy day among Muslims. Muslims also celebrate the creation of Adam on Friday.

11. Ghost, according to tradition is a spirit of a dead person that visits the living. Most people do not believe in ghosts, but some do. Reports of seeing or hearing ghosts have been common throughout history – more so in ancient and medieval times than today. Many people enjoy ghost stories, and there have been many books, films and plays about spirits.

In most ghost stories and reports about ghosts, the ghost resembles its living form. Many ghosts are transparent or shadowy. Some are pictured as white sheets shaped somewhat like a body.

Many ghosts are malevolent. That is, they try to do harm. But some ghosts are friendly. A malevolent ghost is usually the spirit of a person who was murdered or otherwise harmed by relatives or friends. Such a ghost may try to reveal who murdered it – as in W. Shakespeare's play "Hamlet" – or try to frighten the murderer – as in W. Shakespeare's "Macbeth". Most malevolent ghosts haunt the place where, in their real form, they died or were buried. A ghost that haunts a place by making strange noises and causing doors, furniture and other objects to move by themselves is sometimes called a poltergeist. Friendly ghosts include Marley in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". Marley helps Ebenezer Scrooge, the main character in this famous novel, become a better person.

In many stories and reports, a ghost returns from the dead without being contracted by anyone. In others, a medium (a person with special powers) calls the ghost back to earth. Ghosts – which are associated with darkness

and night – usually end their visits by dawn. Some ghosts refuse to leave, and several methods are used to get rid of them. These methods include reburying the corpse, piercing the corpse or its grave with a stake, and praying.

Ghosts play an important role in some religions. Many American Indians and tribes people in Africa and the Pacific Islands believe in spirits that influence the living world. They perform rites to please the spirits in order to assure success in daily life. Many peoples greatly fear the dead and observe special funeral customs to make sure that ghosts do not return to haunt them.

Ghost town. In the 1800's, many towns, particularly in the United States and Australia, grew up near mines. The towns were once prosperous and full of people. When the mines were worked out, the towns were abandoned. Their ruins are now referred to as ghost towns.

12. Magic is the supposed use of natural or supernatural power by a person to try to control human actions or natural events. Magic often seems to achieve results, but the results may actually have other causes. For example, a person might cast a magic spell to make an enemy ill. The enemy may learn about the spell, become frightened, and actually feel ill. People throughout the world have practiced magic from the dawn of history. But beginning in the 1600's, science has provided an increasingly greater understanding of the true causes of natural events. This increased scientific knowledge has reduced people's dependence on magic. But many people in nonindustrial societies still trust in such forms of magic as astrology and fortunetelling.

The word *magic* also refers to entertainment in which the performer does tricks of so-called magic. In such entertainment, neither the magician nor the audience believes that the performer has supernatural powers.

Why people believe in magic

People turn to magic chiefly as a form of insurance – that is, they use it along with actions that actually bring results. For example, hunters may use a hunting charm. But they also use their hunting skills and knowledge of animals. The charm may give hunters the extra confidence they need to hunt even more successfully than they would without it. If they shoot a lot

of game, they credit the charm for their success. Many events occur naturally without magic. Crops grow without it, and sick people get well without it. But if people seek the aid of magic to bring a good harvest or to cure a patient, they may believe the magic was responsible.

People also tend to forget magic's failures and to be impressed by its apparent successes. They may consider magic successful if it appears to work only 10 per cent of the time. Even when magic fails, people often explain the failure without doubting the power of the magic. They may say that the magician made a mistake in reciting the spell or that another magician cast a more powerful spell against the magician.

Many anthropologists believe that people have faith in magic because they feel a need to believe in it. People may turn to magic to reduce their fear and uncertainty if they feel they have no control over the outcome of a situation. For example, farmers use knowledge and skill when they plant their fields. But they know that weather, insects, or diseases might ruin the crops. So farmers in some societies may also plant a charm or perform a magic rite to ensure a good harvest.

13. Mental illness. Psychiatrists sometimes refer to mental illnesses as *mental disorders*, *emotional illnesses*, or *psychiatric illnesses*. The legal term *insanity* is used to describe a mental illness so severe that the person is considered not legally responsible for his or her acts. A mental illness that occurs suddenly and requires immediate treatment may be called a *nervous breakdown*, but doctors do not use this term.

Kinds of mental illness

There are six main categories of adult psychiatric disease: 1) organic disorders; 2) alcohol and drug-related disorders; 3) psychotic disorders other than those in the organic or affective groups; 4) affective disorders; 5) anxiety and related disorders; and 6) disorders of vegetative functions. Two further groups of adult disorders are: personality disorders and stress-induced disorders. Psychiatrists sometimes also use the terms *neurosis* and *psychosis* to describe the severity of various mental illnesses. A *neurosis* is a mild disorder that causes distress but does not interfere greatly with a person's everyday activities. Most anxiety disorders and personality disorders are considered neuroses. Organic disorders are mental illnesses

known to result from a physical cause, such as a birth defect, a disease, or an injury. The most common organic disorders are delirium and dementia. *Delirium* is a disorder in which a person loses awareness of his or her surroundings. People with delirium are easily distracted and confused, and they act and speak in a disorganized manner. They may have *illusions* (*distorted visions*) or *hallucinations* (*sensations with no real basis*). Some delirious people become excited and irritable, but others appear listless and withdrawn. Causes of delirium include liver or kidney disease, fever, head injuries, and intoxication.

14. **Moon.** Many peoples who did not think of the moon as sacred believed that it influenced life. Early philosophers and priests taught that the moon was related to birth, growth, and death because it waxed and waned. Some people feared eclipses as signs of famine, war, or other disasters. According to one superstition, sleeping in moonlight could cause insanity. The word *lunatic*, which means *moonstruck*, comes from *luna*, a Latin word meaning *moon*. Even today, many people believe the moon affects the weather. Other think seeds grow especially well when planted during a waxing moon. The moon is important in astrology, a popular pseudo (false) science.

Legends of various lands told how the "man in the moon" had been imprisoned there for stealing or for breaking the Sabbath. Some people saw other figures in the moon's markings. These figures include Jack and Jill, a beautiful woman, a cat, a frog, and a rabbit.

Many people once believed that some of life existed on the moon. The ancient Greek writer Plutarch told of moon demons that lived in caves. Johannes Kepler, a German astronomer of the 1600's, wrote that luna craters were built by moon creatures. In 1822, F.P. Gruthuisen, another German astronomer, told of discovering a "lunar city". In the 1920's, the American astronomer W. H. Pickering declared that insects might live on the moon. Many scientists hoped that certain chemicals might be found on the moon to give clues as to how life began on the earth.

15. **Necromancy** is a term taken from two Greek words meaning *corpse* and *divination*. It is the belief that the future can be discovered by communication with the spirits of the dead. Necromancy was a common belief in early times.

16. **Occultism** is a term that refers to a wide range of beliefs and practices involving magic or forces outside the natural world. Occultism includes astrology, fortunetelling, magic and spiritualism – the belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living. People who believe in occultism consider it to be based on hidden knowledge that ordinary individuals do not have.

Many scientists reject all occult practices. Others believe in mind reading and certain other occult powers, which they call *paranormal* (outside normal awareness). Opinion regarding some practices has changed through the years. Until the late 1800's, for example, most scientists considered hypnotism an occult practice. However, many scientists accept hypnotism today and use it in medicine and psychology.

Belief in occultism is most common in isolated, non-industrial societies. But since the mid-1900's, there has been a widespread revival of occultism in the Western world.

17. **Omen** is supposedly a sign of future good or bad luck. A good omen foretells a desirable event, and a bad omen forecasts disaster. For example, a person may regard a dream about gold as an omen of success in business. Or the person may believe that the death of a relative will follow a dream about losing a tooth. Sometimes omens come from a deliberate attempt to look into the future, such as a fortuneteller's "reading" cards.

Many ancient societies believed that lightning, thunder, or the behaviour of animals foretold events. The Mesopotamians thought fire would destroy the king's palace if a dog were seen lying on the throne. In folklore, many heroes die after disregarding such signs.

18. **Ouija board** is a device used to supposedly ask questions of the spirits of the dead and receive answers from them. People who believe seriously in the Ouija board use it at gatherings called *séances*. Others use the Ouija board for fun as a game.

A Ouija board is a small board with various symbols printed on its surface. These symbols include the letters of the alphabet, the numbers from 1 to 9 and 0, and the words 'yes' and 'no'. A smaller, three-legged board serves as a pointer.

Two or more people hold a Ouija board on their laps and press their fingers lightly on the pointer. One of them asks the board a question. The pointer supposedly answers by indicating a word or a number or by spelling out words. According to people who believe in the Ouija board, spirits guide the pointer. Others think the fingers of the questioner influence the pointer. The Ouija board was invented about 1890 by William Fuld of Baltimore, U.S.A. Its name comes from the French word oui and the German word ja, both of which mean 'yes.'

19. **Vampire** is a corpse that supposedly returns to life at night to suck people's blood. According to many folk stories, a vampire must have a constant supply of fresh blood obtained by biting the neck of sleeping victims. The victims lose strength, die, and become vampires themselves. Stories of vampirelike creatures have come from many parts of the world. But most vampire tales originated in Eastern European and Balkan countries, such as Albania, Greece, Hungary and Romania. There are many superstitions about vampires. People who commit suicide, die violently, or are condemned by their church supposedly become vampires. According to folklore, a vampire can be destroyed by driving a wooden stake through its heart. In Europe, from the late 1600's to the early 1800's, people dug up graves looking for vampires.

The horror novel "Dracula" (1897) by the English author Bram Stoker, is the most famous vampire story. The character of Dracula is based on Vlad Tepes, a cruel prince from Walachia (now part of Romania). Vlad was nicknamed Dracula, which in Romanian means 'son of the devil' or 'son of dragon'. A number of motion pictures have been made about Dracula.

20. **Voodoo** is a term used for a variety of beliefs, traditions and practices that are derived largely from traditional African religions and from Christianity. The word **voodoo** comes from an African word that means god, spirit, or sacred object.

Various forms of voodoo are practiced in Haiti and other Caribbean countries, and in Brazil and parts of the United States. Followers of voodoo, or voodooists, believe in the existence of one supreme being and of strong and weak spirits. Each person has a protector spirit who rewards the individual with wealth and punishes with illness. Voodooists also

believe that when people die, they go to a place called Nan Guinin, which means Africa but located under the sea.

Each voodoo temple is headed by a voodoo ongan (priest) or manbo (priestess) who performs occasional or yearly ceremonies for the benefit of a piti kay (congregation). Assistants called lapas and onsi help the ongan or manbo in these ceremonies. Sometimes, voodoo temples are part of a network of military-like secret societies established to protect the congregations against abuses and exploitation from outsiders.

Voodoo developed as a series of domestic rituals among African slaves in colonial Haiti. The first slaves in Haiti did not have much contact with one another, and they practiced in private the traditions they had brought with them from different parts of Africa. But as the slaves developed extended families and communities, they began to share their beliefs and practices. Many of these traditions come from other faiths, including African religions, Roman Catholicism and Native American religions. After the Haitian revolution against French colonial rule (1791-1803), traditions were combined, and centers of worship were established.

21. **Witchcraft** - is the use of supposed magic powers, generally to harm people or to damage their property. A witch is a person believed to have received such powers from evil spirits. From earliest times, people in all parts of the world have believed in witches. According to some schools, more than half the people in the world today think witches can influence their lives.

Through the centuries, witchcraft as practiced in countries with a European culture has differed from witchcraft elsewhere. European witchcraft is anti-Christian and involves an association with the Devil. For example, a person wanting to be a witch might sell his or her soul to the devil in exchange for magic powers.

On the other hand, witchcraft in Africa and the West Indies and among the Indians of North America does not involve the Devil. Most of the time, such non-European witchcraft seeks to harm people. But it may also be used to help people. For example, a person in love may ask a witch for a love potion (drink) to give the loved one. Drinking the potion will supposedly make the loved one return the giver's love.

The word **witch** comes from the Anglo-Saxon word wicca, meaning wise one or magician. Originally, a witch was either a man or a woman who supposedly had supernatural powers. Through the years, however, only

women came to be considered witches. Men with similar powers were called sorcerers, warlocks, or wizards.

The powers of witches.

People who believe in witchcraft think a witch can harm people in various ways. In one form of witchcraft, the witch makes a small wax or wooden image of the victim. The witch may put something from the victim's body into the image, such as fingernail clippings or hair. The witch then destroys the image by cutting it, burning it, or sticking pins into it. The victim supposedly suffers severe pain or even death.

Sometimes a witch cast a spell by reciting a magic formula. The spell makes the victim suffer. The witch usually mutters the victim's name while casting the spell. In some societies, people use false names so that witches can have no power over them.

People once blamed witches for any unexplained misfortune, such as illness, a sudden death, or a crop failure. Many persons accused witches of marrying demons and bearing monster children. Witches might make cows go dry by stealing their milk or cast a spell on a churn to prevent butter from forming. People also thought witches could raise storms and turn people into beasts. In addition, witches could ride through the air on a broom, and make themselves invisible. In ancient times, many people believed that witches and warlocks assembled on October 31 to worship their master, the devil. Today, children dress up as witches and goblins on this date to celebrate Halloween.

Witchcraft has led to many widely believed superstitions. For example, many people in southern Europe and the Middle East fear a power called the evil eye. This power enables witches to cause harm or to bring bad luck to others by merely looking at them. According to another superstition, a black cat brings bad luck if it crosses a person's path. This superstition came from the belief that every witch had a personal demon called a familiar. Many familiars, which lived with and served their witches, existed in the form of a black cat or some other animal.

From the 1400's through to the 1700's, church authorities tried to stamp out witchcraft. From 1484 to 1782, according to some historians, the Christian church put to death about 300 000 women for practicing witchcraft. Many of these women suffered terrible torture that they confessed to being witches simply to avoid further torment.

Appendix 3 Texts for Listening Unit 2. The Unexplained

XV. Text "The Dress".

This story is about a bloke who was driving home one night, late at night... there was a very stormy howling gale. So he was driving along and suddenly he saw a little girl by the side of the road and she flagged him down. She was an ordinary little girl in a white dress. He stopped. He wound down the window and she said 'You must help me, you must come quick, my mother is very ill. Come and help me'. So he said 'OK get in'. She got in the car, she directed him and drove to where the house was. He got out and knocked on the door. There was no answer but he could see that the latch was sort of open. So he went into the house and there he found the woman who was very ill. He helped her and she recovered a little bit after a while and then she said to him 'How did you know, how did you know I was here? Who told you I was ill?' and he said 'Well your daughter did.' She looked at him, she went a bit white, and said 'I haven't got a daughter'. She said 'I had a daughter but my daughter died when she was a little girl' and he said 'Well maybe it wasn't your daughter... it was a little girl.' He described the girl. 'You know... sort of long fair hair and a white dress.' And so the woman said to him 'Come upstairs with me'. They went upstairs and they went into the room. There was a wardrobe. She said 'This used to be my little girl's room'. They opened the wardrobe and in the wardrobe they found this white dress, soaking wet.

XVI. Text "Out of Body Experience".

ANNOUNCER. They are called 'Out of Body Experiences' or 'Near Death Experiences' and they can happen to ordinary people in everyday situations or when people have been very ill and have nearly died. Studies have shown that one person in three has had a mystical experience similar to and including near death experiences. They feel themselves released from their physical bodies and feel as if they are floating and looking down on themselves. For some it is a frightening experience but others are left feeling peaceful and happy. On the line today we have three people who

have been through a Near Death Experience. First on the line in Tom Ball from Manchester.

TOM. - It was on April 3rd. I was walking along a cliff and I had a heart attack. I fell over the cliff - 70 feet drop right down to the beach - and I found myself in the sea. My left side wouldn't move. I was paralysed, I suppose, and I drifted in and out of consciousness and it seemed as though I were moving through a tunnel towards bright light and I saw human shapes but I couldn't speak to them. I felt very calm there's no doubt about that - there was no worry. And the next memory was of a terrible pain - I've never had a pain like that and I never want it again and the nurse was there beside me and she said 'Thank God you're back'. It was April 8th - April 8th! Doctors thought I would die - they started to operate and during this operation I had another NDE. I felt again just as though I were in that tunnel heading towards a light and the voice said 'This time you'll stay with us' but well, I dunno, then I was back in the hospital, crying because I didn't want to return from this lovely place. Today my life completely changed. I'm happier and my wife says I'm less selfish and I visit the old and sick and I tell them about my Near Death Experience.

SUSAN. - I was having a baby by Caesarean section, in fact, and I found myself in total darkness, I actually thought I was dead and finally enough I felt angry rather than frightened - I wasn't really frightened at all. I was worried, but about my baby and then, it was strange, really, I found myself flying towards a light which grew until it actually surrounded me and the anger was replaced by a feeling of - I can only really describe it as intense joy. I couldn't see anyone but I became aware of a presence and I knew it was God - a voice said 'you know who I am' and another voice said 'Hello Sue, glad to see you here' - it was my grandfather who had died two years earlier. Naturally I was very happy to see him but all the time I was worried about my baby and I said I wanted to return. So my grandfather asked me why and I remember I told him I wanted to rear my baby and then to help others. Well, I found then that I was in the operating theatre hovering above my own body. The doctor went out of the theatre and I floated above him - it really did, it felt like floating and I heard him say to my husband that he had a son but there were complications. My husband telephoned my mother and I heard him say that she had a grandson but that I wasn't too good - she said 'Keep praying'. Well later I repeated my husband's conversation to my mother and he just couldn't understand how I could repeat it as accurately as that.

Since I had my Near Death Experience my life is much better in fact - I live in peace now that I know that life continues when we die. I get a lot of pleasure in life from very simple things.

JANE. - Well, it happened when I was in hospital. They'd given me the anaesthetic for the operation and I drifted off and then, suddenly, I wasn't dreaming, I just went floating down a tunnel into this bright light without shadow. All around me was this wonderful light and I could hear wonderful music and there were colours everywhere - yes, I saw marvelous colours, and I knew I was in a place of peace - everything was so peaceful and it felt so good. And then suddenly I saw all my relatives and friends who had died - they'd already gone - and they were waving and shouting and when I went towards them they shouted to me to go back 'No, no, go back, it is not your time yet' - yet I wanted to go towards them. And then I woke up and found myself back in hospital.

ANNOUNCER. - Not all experiences are good, of course. One patient said she'd seen a deep hole of swirling mists, where hands were trying to pull her down. She could hear wailing noises, full of despair and was sure it was hell! Another person described it as black, with lots of desperate people and, once again, the wailing noise. Goodness and badness don't seem to influence whether people have positive or negative experiences, but those who have had negative experiences may feel guilty and frightened. Well, so far scientists can't give a very clear explanation of these experiences - some believe it's caused by shortage of oxygen which occurs when a person is near death, but in this case, one would expect the experiences all to be different. In fact, they seem to follow a coherent pattern, as you can see from our 'real life experiences' earlier in the programme. If you have had a 'Near Death Experience' please contact me, Steve Redmond, here at Radio 529. We'd be delighted to hear from you.

Unit 3. Fears and Phobias.

VIII. Text "Phobias".

50% of people suffer from phobias; 20% could touch a snake but not without feeling scared. Fear of snakes is one of the most common phobias of all. Surprisingly enough, there is not a great range of things we are frightened of.

Most we have to do with open spaces, confined spaces, insects such as spiders, situations when there aren't a lot of people, too few people, etc. Many of us are affected by these fears.

Reactions vary from the minor feeling of discomfort which is easy to cope with to an absolutely creeping fear that can destroy a person's life.

Typical reactions when people begin afraid are:

- break out into a cold sweat;
- have shivers down their spine;
- begin to breathe quickly;
- the heart beat increases.

Can these people be helped?

- Yes, by graded exposure. Many fears are born of ignorance. People couldn't bear to touch a snake which is skinny, slimy which isn't true. So, to a certain extent knowledge can help to break down a phobia then gradually; we let a person become more familiar with the object of his or her fear and try to accustom them to the reality behind the phobia. You needn't let your phobia ruin your life.

Keys

Unit I. Ex. VI, p.7-8.

- 1) If you see a black cat, you'll have a good luck.
- 2) If you spill some wine, throw some salt over your shoulder to keep bad luck away.
- 3) If the sky is red this evening, the weather will be fine.
- 4) If your first visitor in the New Year has dark hair you'll have good luck all year.
- 5) If your left hand itches, you'll get some money soon.
- 6) If you break a mirror, you'll have seven years' bad luck.

Ex. VII, p.8.

- 1) has fetish/ makes fetish; 2) to tell my fortune;
- 3) augurs; 4) necromancy; 5) exorcism; 6) oracles, foretold; 7) divination; 8) Blarney Stone; 9) palmistry; 10) amulet; 11) evil eye; 12) Friday;
- 13) voodoo; 14) the ghost; 15) omen; 16) magic; 17) a birthstone; 18) mental illnesses; 19) a vampire;
- 20) occultism; 21) witchcraft; 22) moonlight;

Ex. IX, b), p.10.

- 1) in luck ; 2) sheer luck ; 3) As luck would have it ; 4) a stroke /a piece of luck ; 5) to try her luck ; 6) good luck ; 7) luck has run out; 8) down on one's luck; 9) Just my luck! 10) a run of bad luck, to make the matters worse; 11) to push one's luck; 12) trust to luck; his luck ran out; 13) worse luck! 14) to ride one's luck; 15) in luck; 16) a stroke of luck; 17) to try my luck; 18) to trust to luck, to be out of luck; 19) as luck would have it! 20) to push their luck;

Ex. XII, c), p.20.

- 1) charm ; 2) thought-transference; 3) thoughtwave ; 4) oracular; 5) astral; 6) coincidence; 7) feigned; 8) bewitch; 9) spell; 10) subliminal; 11) providence; 12) marvel;

Ex. XIV, a), p. 22.

- 1) ageism; 2) available; 3) predetermined; 4) distort;
- 5) encourage; 6) to eliminate; 7) to conflict with;
- 8) preconceived; 9) tolerance; 10) background; 11) to sustain; 12) to suppress; 13) to pride oneself on smth;
- 14) to consider on one's merits;

Ex. XIV. b), p.22.

- 1) to pride oneself on; 2) conflict with; 3) tolerance;
4) predetermined; 5) encouragement; 6) background;
7) to suppress; 8) to sustain; 9) preconceived;
10) distorted; 11) available; 12) consider on one's merits;

Unit 2. Ex. I, p. 30.

Some possible answers :

- 1) That smells wonderful. 2) Your hair looks great. 3) It sounds brilliant.
4) This tastes delicious. 5) I feel great. 6) That sounds fantastic. 7) You
look upset. What's the matter? 8) He smells disgusting.

Ex. II, p. 30.

- 1) witness; 2) peer; 3) observe; 4) glance; 5) stare;

Ex. III, p. 30.

- 1) witnessed; 2) gazed/ stared; 3) grasped; 4) press; 5) stroked; 6)
observed; 7) grabbed/ snatched; 8) glanced;

Ex. IV, p. 31.

- 1) bitter; 2) sweet; 3) hot; 4) sour; 5) spicy; 6) salty;

Ex. V, p. 31.

- 1) snatch/ grab; 2) finger; 3) handle; 4) paw;

Ex. VI, p. 31.

Possible answers:

- 1) aromatic; 2) smelly; 3) evil-smelling; 4) fragrant; 5) sweet-smelling; 6)
scented;

Ex. VII, p. 31.

- 1) UFOs; 2) telepathy; 3) ghosts; 4) intuition; 5) déjà-vu; 6) premonition ;

Ex. X. b), p.34.

Peter Elstob was approached by an American outside a sports shop. The American wanted some advice about sending a tennis racket to the daughter of the people he had been staying with. Then the American told Elstob about trying to deliver a letter to a person whose address he couldn't find. The person was Elstob.

2. 1) the south of France; 2) friend; 3) hotels; 4) favourite hotel; 5) old schoolfriend; 6) the same hotel; 7) wife; 8) "Jules" Lewis; 9) love; 10) living together happily;

3. Mrs. May Badman often took the train to town and always sat in the first carriage. One morning when the train came in she began running towards

157

the back of the train and got into a carriage more than half-way back. When the train arrived at St. Pancras, it crashed into the buffers. The people in Mrs. Badman's carriage were only thrown about, but the people in the front of the train were badly hurt.

Ex. X. c), p. 35.

a1 ; b6 ; c4 ; d2 ;

Ex. XIV. 2. a), p. 44.

6 - An altered state - a feeling of peace .

4 - The "out of the body experience".

1 - Entering the darkness which leads to light.

2 - Arrival at "heaven".

5 - The return.

3 - A change of personality.

Ex. XIV. 2 c), p. 44-45.

6,2, 5, 4, 1, 3,

Unit 3. Ex. IV, p. 52.

- 1) necrophobia ; 2) phobia ; 3) airphobia ; 4) maniaphobia ; 5)
hydrophobia ; 6) phobophobia ; 7) kleptophobia ; 8) arachnophobia ; 9)
claustrophobia ;
10) nosophobia ;



Учебное издание
Богатикова Людмила Ивановна

Практика устной речи
Практическое пособие для студентов 1 У курса
специальности «английский язык»
(Темы: «Предвззудки и суеверия», «Паранормальные явления»)

Учреждение образования «Гомельский государственный
университет имени Франциска Скоринь»
246019, г. Гомель, ул. Советская, 104.

Подписано в печать 01.03.2003. Формат 60x84 1/16.
Бумага писчая №1. Печать офсетная. Гарнитура «Таймс».
Усл. п.л. 3,3. Уч. издание л. 2,1. Тираж 70 экз. 30003 №89

Отпечатано на ризографе Учреждения образования
«Гомельский государственный университет
имени Франциска Скоринь»
246019, г. Гомель, ул. Советская, 104

РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ