

## Mysteries, problems, oddities

- ▶ Modals and related verbs
- ▶ Past modals
- ▶ Vocabulary and speaking: Strange events
- ▶ Listening: Mysteries of everyday life
- ▶ Wordspot: wrong
- ▶ Pronunciation: Stress and weak forms of past modals
- ▶ Task: Solve the mysteries
- ▶ Real life: Saying what's wrong with things

### Vocabulary and speaking

#### Strange events

**1** Match the words and phrases below with one of the situations 1–12.

- a a case of mistaken identity
- b a coincidence
- c a ghost story
- d a hoax
- e a miracle
- f a mysterious disappearance
- g a natural phenomenon
- h a premonition
- i supernatural powers
- j telepathy
- k a trick
- l an unsolved murder

**2** Check the words and phrases below in your mini-dictionary. Which of the things above do you find ...

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| a amazing?         | e ridiculous? |
| b disgraceful?     | f spooky?     |
| c disturbing?      | g suspicious? |
| d hard to believe? | h weird?      |

Compare your answers with a partner.

**3** Discuss the following questions in small groups.

- Do you know of any cases similar to the ones above?
- Has anything similar ever happened to you, or to anyone you know?

- 1 An old woman is seriously ill and unable to walk. The doctors say there is no hope for her. Suddenly, she stands and claims she has been cured.
- 2 At an airport in a strange city, you get into conversation with a man you have never met before. After a few minutes, you discover that you both went to the same school.
- 3 A man appears on a TV chat show and demonstrates that he can bend spoons and other small metal objects simply by concentrating hard.
- 4 During winter, in Norway, Alaska and Finland it is possible to observe the 'Northern Lights': a brilliant display of natural lights caused by solar particles which have been thrown out by the sun.
- 5 A woman dreams of a plane falling from the sky and wakes up in a panic. The next day there is a devastating plane crash near her city.
- 6 A boat carrying fifteen passengers on a trip along a remote stretch of river disappears. No trace of the boat, or of any survivors, is ever found.
- 7 A wealthy businessman is found dead in his flat with two bullet holes in his head. There were no obvious clues, and no suspect has ever been arrested.
- 8 A Mr James Allen is arrested in a foreign country, accused of being involved in smuggling arms. Two days later, he is released without charge. The police admit they had arrested the wrong James Allen.
- 9 Scientists fused part of a human skull with part of an orang-utan skull and claimed to have found the 'missing link' between apes and humans. They named it the Piltdown Man.
- 10 A man wakes up in the middle of the night to find the figure of a man dressed in nineteenth-century clothes standing over him. When he turns on the light, the figure disappears.
- 11 A pair of identical twins claim to know what the other is thinking to the extent that they often say exactly the same thing at the same time.
- 12 Someone tells you to choose a card from a pack without telling him what it is. You put it back and he says he will show you the card. He finds it first time.