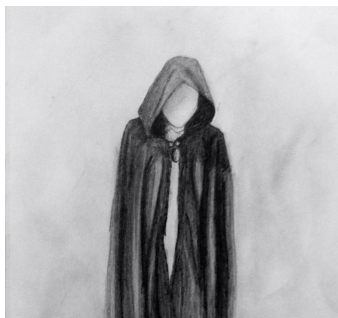


SPECULATE ABOUT MYSTERIES AND THE PAST

INTRODUCTION



The world is full of mysteries: strange stories, old legends, people or things that disappear, and events that we cannot explain.

When we don't know the truth, we speculate. We say things like:

- Maybe it was a ghost.
- I think they got lost.
- They might be hiding something.

In this lesson, you will:

- Read about mysteries and strange events.
- Learn useful words to talk about mysteries.
- Practice expressions like **maybe, I think, might, could** to talk about possible explanations.
- Write about your own ideas about mysteries and the past.

Do you like mysteries?

Think about **mysteries** you know (from movies, series, books, YouTube, TikTok, etc.).

It can be something like:

- The Bermuda Triangle.
- Ghosts in an old house.
- A strange story in your city.

In your notebook write **3-4 sentences**:

- Do you like stories about mysteries? Why / why not?
- What is one mystery you know?
- Do you believe it or not?

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Example:

I like mysteries because they are exciting. I know stories about ghosts in an old hotel in my city. I don't really believe in ghosts, but I enjoy these stories.

VOCABULARY

1 Vocabulary for mysteries and strange events

Word / phrase	Example
Mystery	This is a very old mystery.
Secret	Nobody knows the secret.
Legend	There is a legend about a monster in the lake.
Strange	People saw a strange light in the sky.
Disappear	The ship disappeared in a storm.
Appear	A strange man appeared and then disappeared.
Ghost	Some people say they saw a ghost in that house.
Alien	Do you think aliens are real?
UFO	They saw a UFO over the city.
Haunted house	They stayed in a haunted house.

2 People and tools for investigating mysteries

Word / phrase	Example
Detective	The detective tried to solve the mystery.
Investigator	Investigators looked for answers.
Scientist	Scientists don't believe the legend.
Evidence	There is no clear evidence.
Clue	They found a clue near the river.
Theory	One theory says it was an accident.
Explanation	Nobody has a good explanation.
Proof	There is no proof that it was real.

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3 Expressions for speculating about the past

Expression	Example
Maybe	Maybe they got lost in the forest.
Perhaps	Perhaps it was just a dream.
I think...	I think it was a simple accident.
I don't think...	I don't think it was a ghost.
Might	It might be a secret project.
Could	They could be hiding something.
Nobody knows	Nobody knows what really happened.
In the past	In the past, people believed this legend.

GRAMMAR

1. Simple speculation

- **Maybe / perhaps**
- **I think / I don't think**
- **Might / could** (for simple possibility)
- Questions like: **What do you think happened?**

2. Use *maybe* and *I think...* with past

Use: to give a possible explanation when we are not sure.

Structure:

- *Maybe + subject + past verb*
- *I think + subject + past verb*
- *I don't think + subject + past verb*

Examples:

1. *Maybe the ship **sank** in a storm.*
2. *Maybe the man **got lost** in the mountains.*
3. *I think they **made** a mistake on the map.*
4. *I don't think it **was** a UFO.*
5. *I think someone **took** the treasure.*

3. Using **might** and **could** to talk about possibility

We use **might** and **could** to talk about something that is **possible**, but we are not sure.

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Structure:

- *Subject + might + base verb*
- *Subject + could + base verb*

Examples:

1. *It **might be** an animal, not a monster.*
2. *They **might know** the truth, but they don't say anything.*
3. *It **could be** a secret experiment.*
4. *The light **could come** from a plane.*
5. *The noise **might come** from the old house.*

4. Asking for speculations: "What do you think happened...?"

Questions

- *What do you think happened?*
- *Do you think it was a ghost?*
- *Do you think they got lost?*
- *What could it be?*
- *Why do you think people saw that light?*

Examples:

1. *What do you think happened to the ship?*
2. *Do you think it was an accident?*
3. *Why do you think people still talk about this mystery?*
4. *What could it be in the photo?*
5. *Do you think there might be a simple explanation?*

CONVERSATION - TWO FRIENDS TALK ABOUT MYSTERY

Emma: Hey, Leo, have you seen that video about the strange lights over the city?

Leo: Yes, I saw it yesterday. It was really strange. Maybe it was a UFO.

Emma: I don't think it was a UFO. I think it was a plane or a drone.

Leo: I'm not sure. The lights moved very fast. It could be some secret project.

Emma: Perhaps, but there is no real evidence. Nobody knows the truth.

Leo: That's why I like mysteries. People can have many theories.

Emma: Yes, and I think scientists might find an explanation in the future.

Leo: Maybe. Until then, it's a mystery!

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