

# 1B Do you believe in it?

## 1 READING & LISTENING

- a Look at the beginning of two true stories. What do you think they might have in common?
- b ► **Communication** Work in pairs **A** and **B** and read two stories.  
**A** read *Noises in the Night* on p.104. **B** go to p.109 and read *The Strange Object on the Hill*.

## HARD TO BELIEVE? BUT IT HAPPENED TO ME...

Have you ever experienced a paranormal happening? Write and tell us about it.

### NOISES IN THE NIGHT

About six months ago, my husband Russ and I moved into a house in the country. Our house is the middle one of three terraced houses and it's more than a hundred years old. A young couple live in the house on our right, but the house on our left was empty and for sale.

### THE STRANGE OBJECT ON THE HILL

This happened when I was 16, and I can still remember it vividly. It was a clear morning, sunny but with a breeze. I was going to meet a school friend to go walking in the hills where there were some wonderful views. I'd agreed to meet him at the top of one of the hills.

- c Now read the beginning of another true story. Would you have been happy for Fatos to read *your* coffee cup? Why (not)?

### THE COFFEE CUP READING

I went to Turkey a few years ago with a colleague called Chris. We'd been sent there by the British Council to train secondary school teachers in a school on the outskirts of Istanbul. While I was there I decided to go and see an old friend of mine, a young Turkish woman called Fatos, who I hadn't seen for several years. I called her and we agreed to meet in a hotel in the centre of Istanbul. Chris came too, and the three of us had a very pleasant dinner together. After dinner we ordered Turkish coffee and we chatted for a while, until Fatos suddenly asked me, 'Would you like me to read your coffee cup?' I refused politely because, to be honest, I don't really believe in clairvoyants and fortune-telling. But Chris immediately said he would be happy for her to read his coffee cup... Adam, London



d 1 10)) Listen to the rest of *The Coffee Cup Reading* and answer the questions.

- 1 What were the first two things Fatos saw in Chris's coffee cup? Were they accurate?
- 2 What was the third thing she saw?
- 3 How did Chris and Adam react to this?
- 4 Who did Chris's mother live with?
- 5 Where did Chris go the next morning?
- 6 Who called Adam? Why?
- 7 What was the bad news?
- 8 How did Fatos react to what had happened?
- 9 How does Adam feel about the experience?

e 1 11)) Listen to some extracts from the story and complete the missing words. Try to work out what they mean.

- 1 Well, Carla, Chris's girlfriend at the time, was blonde, so that was \_\_\_\_\_, too.
- 2 But Chris is quite a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ sort of person and he didn't seem to be too worried by what she'd said.
- 3 It was a slightly \_\_\_\_\_ end to what *had* been a very enjoyable evening.
- 4 So, was it just a \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- 5 I always used to be very \_\_\_\_\_ about fortune-telling...

## 2 SPEAKING

Talk in small groups.

**Which of the three stories do you find the spookiest?**

Can you think of any possible explanation for what happened in each story?

**Have you (or anybody you know)...?**

- seen or heard something which can't be explained, e.g. a UFO or a ghost
- visited a fortune-teller, psychic, or faith healer
- had a surprising coincidence

### Reacting to a story about something strange

When somebody talks about something strange or difficult to explain we often react with these phrases.

*How / That's strange; bizarre; odd; weird; spooky*

## 3 GRAMMAR auxiliary verbs

a Look at the dialogues and try to complete the gaps with a  or  auxiliary (*do, did, is, was, etc.*).

- 1 A I heard a noise in the middle of the night.  
B <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you? What kind of noise?
- 2 A You don't believe in ghosts, <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you?  
B No, I don't.
- 3 A I don't believe you really saw a UFO.  
B I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ see one! It couldn't have been anything else.
- 4 A I've never been to a fortune-teller.  
B Neither <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I.  
C I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. It was really interesting.

b 1 12)) Listen and check. In pairs, decide which auxiliary (1–5) is used...

- A  to add emphasis  
B  to say that you are different  
C  to check information  
D  to show surprise  
E  to say that you are the same

c  **p.133 Grammar Bank 1B.** Learn more about using auxiliary verbs, and practise them.

## 4 PRONUNCIATION

intonation and sentence rhythm

a 1 14)) Listen to the dialogues. Notice the stressed auxiliary verbs.

A I **dreamt** that I **saw** a ghost last night.

B **Did** you? **So** did I. **How** spooky!

A I **don't believe** in fortune-telling.

B **Don't** you? I **do**.

b Repeat the dialogues with a partner, copying the rhythm and intonation.

c Complete sentences 1–8 so that they are true for you.

- 1 I'm not very good at \_\_\_\_\_. (activity)
- 2 I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight. (verb phrase)
- 3 I love \_\_\_\_\_. (a kind of music)
- 4 I don't like \_\_\_\_\_. (a kind of food)
- 5 I've never read \_\_\_\_\_. (a famous book)
- 6 I'd love to live in \_\_\_\_\_. (a town or country)
- 7 I was very \_\_\_\_\_ as a child. (adj of personality)
- 8 I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ last night. (verb phrase)

d Work in pairs A and B. A read your sentences to B.


B respond with a reply question and then say whether you are the same or different. Then swap roles.

e 1 15)) Listen to another dialogue. Is *do* stressed in the **highlighted** phrases?

A You don't like horror films, **do you?**

B **I do like them.** It's just that sometimes they're too scary!

f Repeat the dialogue with a partner, copying the rhythm and intonation.

g  **Communication** *You're psychic, aren't you?* A p.105 B p.109. Make guesses about your partner.

## 5 1 16)) SONG Unbelievable

## 6 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a On a piece of paper write the sentence *I look forward to hearing from you*. Then sign your name underneath and give the piece of paper to your partner.
- b Look at the signatures of some famous people. Can you identify any of them? Do you know anything about these people's personalities?
- c Read an extract from a book about graphology. Do you believe that our signature might say something about our personality?

### What your *signature* says about you

Your signature is the part of your handwriting that says the most about your personality. It is quite common for your signature to change during your life because it reflects how you develop and evolve as a person. You may have more than one signature, for example a more formal signature (name and surname) when you sign a credit card or your passport, and an informal signature (just your first name) when you sign a birthday card.

Our signature is very much part of the way in which we present ourselves to the world, so it can give some important clues about the kind of person we are and how we feel about ourselves.

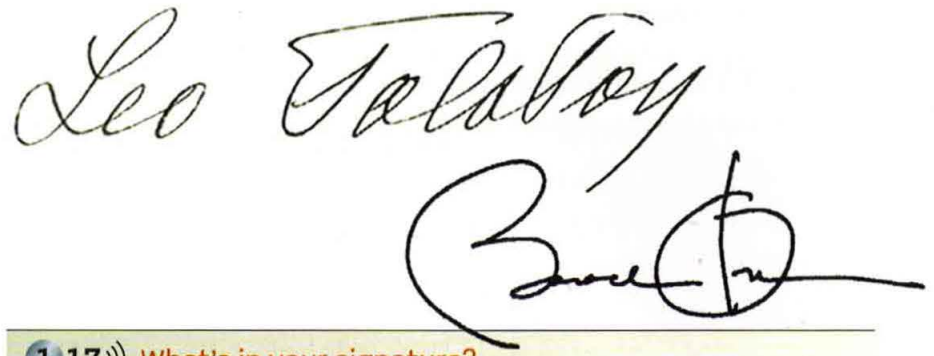
- d 17, 18, 19, 20)) Listen to an expert in graphology talking about how to interpret somebody's personality from their signature. Complete the notes on the right.

#### Taking notes

We often need to take notes when we are listening, for example to somebody giving a lecture. If you need to take notes when you are listening to someone speaking in English, try to write down key words or phrases because you won't have time to write complete sentences. Afterwards you could expand your notes into full sentences.

- e In pairs, interpret the signatures of the famous people. Do any of the interpretations coincide with what you already thought?
- f Now look at your partner's signature and try to interpret it. Do you agree with your partner's interpretation of *your* signature?
- g Do you believe that you can learn anything about someone's personality by...?
- analysing their handwriting (graphology)
  - looking at their hands (palmistry)
  - analysing the position of the sun, moon, and planets at the exact time of their birth (astrology)
  - another similar method

Leo Tolstoy



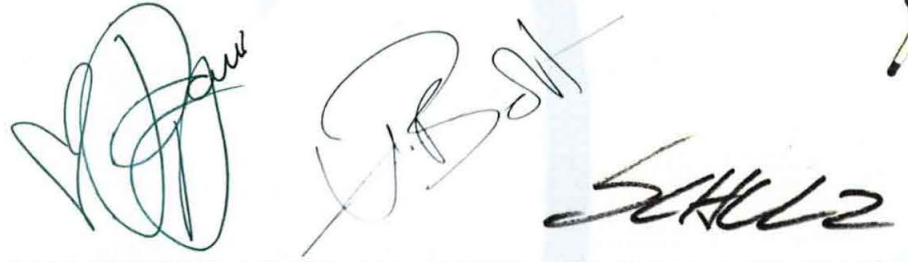
#### 17)) What's in your signature?

Your name = *your private self*

Your surname =

You use only initials either for your first name or your surname =

There is a space between your name and surname =



#### 18)) The size of your signature

Your first name is bigger than your surname =

Your surname is bigger than your first name =

Your whole signature is big =

You sign in capital letters =

Your signature is small =

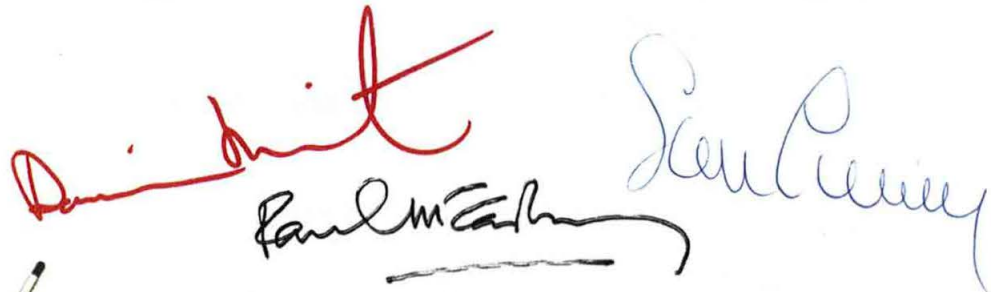


#### 19)) The legibility of your signature

Your signature is legible =

Your signature is illegible =

The more illegible your signature is...



#### 20)) The angle of your signature

A rising signature =

A descending signature =

A horizontal signature =

The angle of a signature may change depending on...

## 7 MINI GRAMMAR

### the...the... + comparatives

*The more space there is between your name and surname, the more you wish to keep separate these two parts of your personality.*

*The more illegible your signature is, the less assertive you probably are as a person.*

Use *the* + comparative adjective or adverb to show that one thing depends on another, e.g.

- *The sooner we start, the earlier we'll finish.* = how soon we will finish depends on when we start.
- *The colder it is, the more clothes you need to wear to keep warm.* = how many clothes you need to wear depends on how cold it is.

## 8 VOCABULARY compound adjectives

a Look at some extracts from the listening in 6. Can you remember what the gapped words were?

- 1 Some people actually sign in capital letters, which suggests that they may be big-\_\_\_\_\_ or even arrogant.
- 2 A descending signature... suggests that you are the kind of person who gets disheartened or depressed when you are faced with problems, perhaps because you are not very self-\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 A horizontal signature usually indicates a person who is well-\_\_\_\_\_ and emotionally stable.

b 1 21)) Listen and check. Do the compound adjectives have a positive or negative meaning?

### Compound adjectives

Compound adjectives are adjectives that have two parts. The second part often ends in *-ed* or *-ing*, e.g. *well-behaved*, *hard-working*. The words are normally linked by hyphens. The main stress is on the second word.

c With a partner, look at some more compound adjectives to describe a person's character. Use the two parts of the word to try to work out their meaning, and say if they are positive or negative characteristics.

bad-tempered good-tempered open-minded  
narrow-minded absent-minded easy-going laid-back  
tight-fisted two-faced strong-willed self-centred

*I think bad-tempered means somebody who gets angry very easily...*

d 1 22)) Listen and repeat the compound adjectives in c.

a Rewrite the sentences using *the...the* + comparative.

- 1 If you study a lot, you learn a lot.  
The \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 If we leave soon, we'll get there earlier.  
The \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 If you have a lot of time, you do things slowly.  
The \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 If you are fit, you feel good.  
The \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_.

b Complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 The more money you have,...
- 2 The sooner you start your homework,...
- 3 The faster I speak in English,...
- 4 The less you sleep,...

e Read the information on adjective modifiers.

### Modifiers

We often use modifiers with adjectives of personality.

#### With positive characteristics

My mum is quite / pretty very good-tempered really / incredibly

#### With negative characteristics

My sister is a bit quite / rather / pretty bad-tempered very really / incredibly

**I SAID, 'DON'T TALK TO ME!'**



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f Tell the partner about people with the characteristics below. Give examples of their behaviour.

#### Do you know somebody who is...?

rather bad-tempered a bit two-faced  
extremely absent-minded very good-tempered  
a bit tight-fisted incredibly strong-willed  
pretty laid-back quite self-centred

*One of my cousins is a bit two-faced. She says one thing to me, and then I find out she said the exact opposite to somebody else in the family...*