

# 1

# Legend or truth?

## 1 Vocabulary

### \* Words in context

**a** Unscramble the letters to make expressions. Then match them with the definitions.

expression	definition
1 drow fo homut ..... <i>word of mouth</i> .....	a an excellent instance
2 porc pu .....	b an atmosphere in which people are generally afraid
3 argyell revilanter .....	c generally not important
4 ractde cbka .....	d including many different topics or subjects
5 metallic fo rafe .....	e to appear suddenly and unexpectedly
6 scaclis axpleem .....	f one example
7 diwe anger .....	g followed to find the origins
8 ginles sace .....	h a means by which a story can be spread from person to person

**b** Read the letter to a newspaper and complete it with the expressions from Exercise 1a.

## 2 Grammar

### \* Deduction and probability

**a** Read the sentences. Do the underlined verbs refer to the *past, present or future*?

- I'll call around tomorrow and let you know. .... *future* .....
- Just imagine. This time tomorrow you'll be lying on the beach. You're so lucky!  
.....
- He'll be at the pool. His swimming lesson starts in five minutes. ....
- Don't call her now. She'll be watching *EastEnders*.  
.....
- She'll fail her driving test, I know. She's too confident.  
.....
- She won't have opened your card yet. It's not her birthday until tomorrow. ....

## LETTERS

*Dear Sir,*

The latest 'sightings' of the Manchester beast are another <sup>1</sup> *classic example* of British newspapers not having enough real news to fill their pages. Well, that's not completely true, there are a <sup>2</sup> ..... of important issues that you should be discussing, you just choose to go with one about an imaginary animal hiding in the shadows of the UK's second city. The story, which originally spread by <sup>3</sup> ....., was quickly picked up by the national media. Now you can hardly walk around our city without walking into a journalist.

Everyone knows that these mystery monster stories are nothing new. Every year or two, another one <sup>4</sup> ....., creating

a <sup>5</sup> ..... among local communities, and causing residents to lock their doors and go to bed. It is a sad state of affairs when fear among people can be <sup>6</sup> ..... to bad or lazy journalism.

But the Manchester beast is different. It's the first one in this age of mobile phone photography and this has led to hundreds of photos being sent in by amateur photographers. Few of them actually look like a monster. And nor has there been one <sup>7</sup> ..... of anyone being attacked by the beast. But details like these are <sup>8</sup> ..... when you're trying to sell newspapers.

Yours faithfully

**P Goodall**



**MIT**  
 ow see  
 nous cost  
 blic of the  
 ions great  
 of big

**b** Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

can't will have will might ~~must have~~ can't have must have may have

- 1 'What? You were swimming and you saw a great white shark? You must have been terrified.'
- 2 There ..... be many people in the UK who don't have a mobile phone.
- 3 Robert's a professional chef, he ..... cooked us something delicious, I'm sure.
- 4 I ..... try and catch an earlier train. I'm not sure yet.
- 5 She ..... be very disappointed when she finds out you're not going to her party.
- 6 You ..... heard of Robbie Williams. He's really famous.
- 7 Police say he ..... left the country using his brother's passport.
- 8 She ..... been serious. Sue would never say something like that.

**c** Read the dialogue and underline the correct words.

Marco: I heard an amazing story the other day.

Carol: Yeah, what was it about?

Marco: Well, it's about a friend of a friend's mother.

Carol: So it will / can't be an urban legend then.

Marco: What do you mean?

Carol: Any story that involves a friend of a friend is usually an urban legend.

Marco: Well, it isn't. This story's so incredible it <sup>2</sup> must / can't have been made up.

Carol: Go on, then. Tell me.

Marco: OK, so this friend of a friend's mother works at a hospital. She's a nurse. One morning she walks into the intensive care unit, you know, the place where they put really ill people, and the man in the bed there has died.

Carol: So he <sup>3</sup> must / may have been really ill.

Marco: Well, that's what the doctors think too. But the next morning, the same nurse finds another dead patient in the bed, and the morning after, another one.

Carol: Wow, it <sup>4</sup> might / can't be a very good hospital.

Marco: It's one of the best in the country, actually.

Carol: So what was the problem?

Marco: At first they thought it <sup>5</sup> can't / may have been one of those hospital bugs, you know, one of those diseases that you can get in hospitals.

Carol: They <sup>6</sup> must / might have been really worried. That sort of thing can get a hospital closed.

Marco: Well, they did all sorts of tests and found no trace of any disease. They were really puzzled. And all the time more patients were dying in the same bed.

Carol: It <sup>7</sup> might / can't have been a good idea to close the room down.

Marco: No, what they did was to put a CCTV camera in the room to see what was happening.

Carol: And what did they find?

Marco: Well, during the night everything was OK. The patients were sleeping fine and then ...

Carol: And then what?

Marco: The door opened. Who do you think came in?

Carol: I suppose it <sup>8</sup> can't / might have been a doctor or a nurse, maybe.

Marco: No. The first person to come in was the cleaner.

Carol: The cleaner. So she <sup>9</sup> might / must be the murderer. Case solved.

Marco: Not exactly.

Carol: What do you mean?

Marco: Well, she was responsible for the deaths but it wasn't exactly murder. The cleaner needed to vacuum the room so she unplugged the life support machine next to the bed to plug her vacuum cleaner in.

Carol: What?! The machine that keeps the patient alive? She <sup>10</sup> can't / will be very intelligent.

Marco: No, I don't think she is. And when she finished, she unplugged the vacuum cleaner and plugged the life support back in. But it was too late because the patient had already died.

Carol: And she <sup>11</sup> won't / must have heard them cry for help because of the noise of the cleaner.

Marco: Exactly.

Carol: And you think this is a true story?

Marco: Of course not! I looked it up on the Internet – it's all nonsense!

### 3 Vocabulary

#### \* Expressions with story

**a** Put the words in order to make expressions.

- 1 story / of / end  
*end of story* .....
- 2 story / likely / a / that's  
 .....
- 3 up / made / that / she / story  
 .....
- 4 my / the / of / story / it's / life  
 .....
- 5 story / to / long / short / a / cut  
 .....
- 6 story / me / sob / a / real / she / told  
 .....
- 7 hear / let's / the / story / of / your / side  
 .....
- 8 with / story / the / it's / always / same / old / you  
 .....

#### VOCABULARY TIP

##### Translation and idiomatic language

- Look at the expressions in Exercise 3a. Translate each one, word for word, into your language. Do the expressions make sense? The answer is probably not. It is often difficult to translate idiomatic expressions. Sometimes, however, there may be a similar idiom in your own language. Can you think of any that are similar to the expressions in Exercise 3a?
- If there is no similar expression in your own language, then it's best to record the phrase in English using a clear context to highlight its meaning.

**b** Complete the dialogues. Use the expressions in Exercise 3a.



- 1 **Teacher:** So you say your dog ate your homework. *That's a likely story.* .....
- Student:** I know but it's true. Honestly.
- 2 **Mother:** So you gave her the money to buy it.  
**Father:** ..... about being the only one at the party with an old dress. I couldn't say no.
- 3 **Father:** So Fred says it was your idea to have a party while we were away.  
 .....
- Lucy:** Sure. It was all Fred's idea.
- 4 **Dawn:** Please, Dad. Please let me borrow the car tonight.  
**Father:** I've told you ten times already, no!  
 ..... Now leave me alone.
- 5 **Woman:** So you've left your wallet at home again. ....  
**Man:** I know. I'll pay next time. I promise.
- 6 **Jackie:** Did Kylie tell you that she sat next to Orlando Bloom on the train?  
**Britney:** You didn't believe her, did you?  
 .....

**4 Culture in mind**

**a** Read the text. Put these phrases into the correct places. There are two phrases you won't use.

- a then came midnight
- b other people questioned whether
- c had not made sure that the numbers were right
- d that made the computers run
- e since they are very dependent on computers
- f it also seemed to be possible that
- g instead of to 2000

# Climates of fear – Y2K

*In our ongoing series about moments when the world got scared, we offer you – Y2K.*

The letters Y and K separated by the number 2 made a very interesting word just before the year 2000. Y2K was really a shorthand term that created quite a climate of fear back in the 1990s.

The abbreviation Y2K stands for the 'Year 2000'. It was most often used when talking about potential computer problems that were anticipated with the world moving into the 21st century. When computers were first built, the designers of the programs <sup>1</sup> ..... used only two numbers instead of four to indicate the year: for example, 1998 was 98. This was done as a cost-saving measure. In the 1990s, many computer programmers continued using the two numbers instead of four.

As the world moved toward the year 2000, it was realised that a massive computer problem could occur, because all computer processors and software using the two-digit feature were going to stop moving forward and revert back to 00 as in 1900, <sup>2</sup> ..... Fears were that all computer-operated equipment manufactured with a computer processor, like televisions and microwave ovens, would fail because the computer memory would not recognize the date 00.

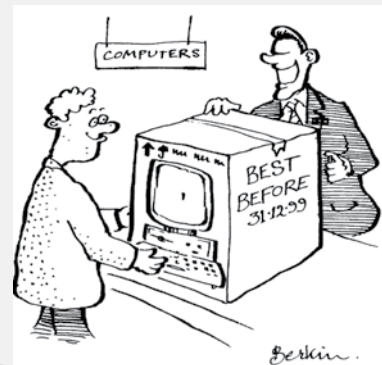
Many people were uncertain how to react. Was this potential threat a reality? There was a lot in the media about the world going dark at midnight

on 1 January, 2000, since electrical systems were operated by computers. People feared planes would fall out of the sky if they were in the air at midnight, <sup>3</sup> ..... , too. All financial systems would crash, leaving the world in economic chaos.

And <sup>4</sup> ..... on 31st December 1999, and what happened was ... basically, nothing. Stock markets didn't crash, neither did airplanes, the lights were still on all over the world.

While no globally significant computer failures occurred when the clocks rolled over into 2000, preparation for the Y2K problem had a significant effect on the computer industry, which grew considerably during the 90s. There were plenty of Y2K problems, and the fact that none of them caused major incidents is seen by some as a justification of the Y2K preparation. However, <sup>5</sup> ..... the absence of computer failures was the result of the preparation undertaken or simply because the potential problem had been hugely exaggerated.

Was there anything really to be scared about? Or was Y2K just another example of media hype?



**b** Read the text again. Mark the statements *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Two numbers were used for years, not four, in order to save money.
- 2 The fear was that computers would think 00 meant 2000.
- 3 There was concern that airplanes would not be able to take off at midnight on December 31st.
- 4 Not very much went wrong at midnight on December 31st, 1999.
- 5 Y2K meant that the number of computer companies in the 1990s increased.
- 6 Everyone agrees that Y2K was exaggerated by the media.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

# Skills in mind

## 5 Write

**a** Read the newspaper articles, A and B, quickly and answer the questions.

- 1 Which one is from a tabloid (a sensational paper)?
- 2 Which one is from a broadsheet (a more serious paper)?

### A Police warn against ship theft

Hundreds of people are continuing to search the beaches of Branscombe for cargo from the sinking ship *MSC Napoli*, despite being told by police that their actions could lead to arrest. Over the last two days people have been descending onto the north Devon beach, and helping themselves to goods from the containers that have been washed ashore. So far, the finds have included anything from disposable nappies to barrels of wine and even BMW motorbikes. Now police have closed down the beaches to try and prevent any more items being taken and to allow contractors to start cleaning up the beach. They have also warned that anyone found taking goods from the beach could face legal action. The local coastguards have been quick to condemn the looters and have described their actions as 'sheer greed', a view shared by one Swedish woman who watched in horror as people walked off with clothes and family heirlooms from a container transporting her personal belongings to her new home in South Africa.



### B Greedy looters could face arrest

**Vultures who amazingly made off with BMW superbikes, nappies and other booty washed ashore from a cargo ship sinking off the north Devon coast could face prison, police said today.** Police condemned the 'abysmal behaviour' of more than 1,000 people who travelled from all over the country to loot wreckage along Branscombe beach in Devon, saying they were no more than scavengers. Local residents looked on in fear and horror as gangs of jobs turned the idyllic beach into a rubbish tip in their disgusting greed for freebies. Police have now dramatically blocked public access to the beach to stop anyone else from picking over the containers and barrels washed ashore from the *MSC Napoli*. But as one local commented, 'It's too late, there's nothing left.'



**c** Find these words in text B. Check their meanings in a dictionary. When is it appropriate to use them?

- 1 vultures 2 booty 3 jobs  
 4 freebies 5 scavengers

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**b** Read the texts again. Which one:

- 1 contains more factual information? .....
- 2 makes its opinion of the situation clear? .....
- 3 contains more adjectives and adverbs? .....
- 4 contains more slang (informal language)? .....
- 5 is easier to understand? .....

**d** Choose a recent news story and write two articles about it, one for a broadsheet, one for a tabloid. Each should be 100–125 words.



# Unit check

## 1 Fill in the spaces

Complete the text with the words in the box.

tell getting classic largely cut  
~~can't~~ lead wide might argue

There <sup>1</sup> ..... *can't* ..... be many people who don't like to <sup>2</sup> ..... a good story. But why? Psychologists will <sup>3</sup> ..... that storytelling is a <sup>4</sup> ..... example of our need to be accepted. They say we have an inner desire to share our <sup>5</sup> ..... range of experiences with others. We hope that they <sup>6</sup> ..... be able to understand what we are saying and that this will <sup>7</sup> ..... them to a better understanding of who we are. Some psychologists argue that what we actually say is <sup>8</sup> ..... irrelevant. What is important is <sup>9</sup> ..... the attention of other people, so that they acknowledge that we exist. To <sup>10</sup> ..... a long story short, we tell stories because we want to feel that we are important enough to be listened to.

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## 2 Choose the correct answers

**Circle** the correct answer: a, b or c.

- Stories like this get around by ..... of mouth.  
a **word** b letter c sentence
- The only information I could give to the police was largely ..... to the case.  
a irrelevant b irregular c irreverent
- He's a liar. You ..... believe a word he says.  
a must b can't c might
- Your name cropped ..... in conversation with Harry.  
a above b over c up
- Many psychological disorders in adults can be ..... back to problems in childhood.  
a found b turned c traced
- If it's 5pm, they ..... be watching the news. They always do.  
a will b might c may
- Many people are living in a ..... of fear after the robberies.  
a environment b climate c atmosphere
- I can't think of ..... case of someone stealing at our school.  
a an only b a single c a one
- It's snowing. It ..... be cold outside.  
a might b can't c must

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## 3 Vocabulary

Complete each sentence with one word.

- The shop had a wide ..... *range* ..... of phones for sale.
- No! You can't go out tonight! OK? ..... of story!
- He gave me some ..... story about how his sister was ill.
- Now I'm going to tell you my ..... of the story.
- When he didn't give me the book back, he ..... up a story about needing it for a project.
- Bottom of the class! Again! It's the story of my .....
- Anyway, to ..... a long story short, I missed the last bus.
- Late again? It's always the ..... old story, isn't it?
- Someone stole it? That's a ..... story!

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## How did you do?

Total:  25



Very good  
20 – 25



OK  
14 – 19



Review Unit 1 again  
0 – 13