

**the ARTICLE (for instructors)**

**Do You Believe in Ghosts?**

Ghost stories have been with humankind for thousands of years. There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which make up some of the earliest writings of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

In the United States, the answer seems to be "yes." According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population considers ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the questionable scientific evidence. The poll also revealed that few people have ever seen any spiritual being, and have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have been inspired by real-life ghost stories. However, many have turned out to be false and exaggerated before Hollywood even rewrote the story. Others have been manipulated by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale. But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because the real-life ones seem much less remarkable. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe a creepy feeling, or see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world, so they often subtly affect people. They influence society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

**Teacher's Notes:**

\* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the answers.

**the ARTICLE (for students)**

**Do You Believe in Ghosts?**

Ghost stories have been with humankind for thousands of years. There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, a) \_\_\_\_\_ . But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

In the United States, the answer seems to be "yes." According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population considers ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the questionable scientific evidence. b) \_\_\_\_\_ , and have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have been inspired by real-life ghost stories. However, many c) \_\_\_\_\_ . Others have been manipulated by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale. But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because the real-life ones seem much less remarkable. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, d) \_\_\_\_\_ .

e) \_\_\_\_\_ , so they often subtly affect people. They influence society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

**Notes:**

## STEP ONE

**Title:** Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Do You Believe in Ghosts?"

## STEP TWO

**Questions:** Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	The earliest written stories about ghosts come from the Egyptians.	T / F
b.	Almost two-thirds of Americans believe in ghosts.	T / F
c.	TV and movies affect people's belief in ghosts.	T / F
d.	Real-life ghost stories are as exciting as the stories from Hollywood.	T / F
e.	According to the article, some people get a strange feeling when a ghost is nearby.	T / F

## STEP THREE

**Fill in the Blanks:** Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

## STEP FOUR

**Questions:** Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	How many people in the US believe in ghosts?
b.	Why do people in the US believe in ghosts?
c.	How are real-life ghost stories and Hollywood tales different?
d.	What does the article say about real-life ghost stories?
e.	How are modern ghost stories the same as stories from long ago?

## STEP FIVE

**Discuss:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	Do you believe in ghosts? How about other monsters, like vampires or mummies? Why/not?
c.	How much do you think TV and movies affect your opinions and beliefs? Please explain.
d.	Are there any good ghost stories from your country? If yes, please tell one.