

**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 comprise some of the earliest written records of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

The answer seems to be "yes," or at least it does in the US. More than half of the population considers the existence of ghosts as fact, according to a survey taken in 2003. This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and anecdotal scientific evidence. What's more, the poll revealed that few have seen hide or hair of any spiritual beings, but have instead founded their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have taken their inspiration from real life accounts, although quite a few of these have turned out false and clearly embellished before Hollywood even took a whack. Other stories have been very much manipulated by Hollywood, and so hardly resemble the original source. Regardless of how the stories have changed, real-life ghosts seem significantly less impressive than those depicted by Hollywood. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe an unusually creepy feeling, or strange spots of light appear on film, or something is glimpsed out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are a ubiquitous part of today's world. Their affect on people can oftentimes be subtle and subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

**Teacher's Notes:**

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

**the ARTICLE (for students)**

oftentimes	inspiration	founded	considers	hair
comprise	ubiquitous	resemble	creepy	anecdotal
embellished	depicted	accounts	glimpsed	impressive

**Do You Believe in Ghosts?**

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

The answer seems to be "yes," or at least it does in the US. More than half of the population (c. \_\_\_\_\_) the existence of ghosts as fact, according to a survey taken in 2003. This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and (d. \_\_\_\_\_) scientific evidence. What's more, the poll revealed that few have seen hide or (e. \_\_\_\_\_) of any spiritual beings, but have instead (f. \_\_\_\_\_) their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have taken their (g. \_\_\_\_\_) from real life accounts, although quite a few of these have turned out false and clearly (h. \_\_\_\_\_) before Hollywood even took a whack. Other stories have been very much manipulated by Hollywood, and so hardly (i. \_\_\_\_\_) the original source. Regardless of how the stories have changed, real-life ghosts seem significantly less (j. \_\_\_\_\_) than those (k. \_\_\_\_\_) by Hollywood. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe an unusually (l. \_\_\_\_\_) feeling, or strange spots of light appear on film, or something is (m. \_\_\_\_\_) out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are a (n. \_\_\_\_\_) part of today's world. Their affect on people can (o. \_\_\_\_\_) be subtle and subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

### STEP ONE

**Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "ghosts" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

### STEP TWO

**Vocabulary match:** Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

a.	<b>comprise</b>	q.	exaggerate
b.	<b>consider</b>	r.	unreliable
c.	<b>anecdotal</b>	s.	look like
d.	<b>inspiration</b>	t.	everywhere
e.	<b>embellish</b>	u.	make up
f.	<b>resemble</b>	v.	look
g.	<b>impressive</b>	w.	rousing
h.	<b>depict</b>	x.	idea
i.	<b>glimpse</b>	y.	believe
j.	<b>ubiquitous</b>	z.	describe

### STEP THREE

**Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	<b>glimpsed</b>	<b>considers</b>	<b>ubiquitous</b>	<b>resemble</b>	<b>anecdotal</b>
	<b>inspiration</b>	<b>embellished</b>	<b>impressive</b>	<b>comprise</b>	<b>depicted</b>
a.	There are written accounts from the Chinese which ( ) some of the earliest writings of hauntings.				
b.	More than half of the US population ( ) the existence of ghosts as fact.				
c.	This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and ( ) scientific evidence.				
d.	Many popular programs and movies have taken their ( ) from real life accounts.				
e.	Many of the stories have turned out false and clearly ( ) before Hollywood even took a whack.				
f.	Other stories have been very much manipulated, and so hardly ( ) the original source.				
g.	Real-life ghosts seem significantly less ( ).				
h.	The stories ( ) by Hollywood are more interesting.				
i.	Something is ( ) out of the corner of their eye.				
j.	But TV and movies are a ( ) part of today's world.				

### STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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:** Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	Do you believe in ghosts? How about other monsters, like vampires or mummies? Why/not?
b.	Do you know anyone who has seen, or think he/she has seen, a ghost? If yes, please explain.
c.	How much do you think TV and movies affect your opinions and beliefs? Please explain.
d.	Compared to the US, do you think more or less people from your country believe in ghosts? Why?

**Score yourself:**

**10 or more times:** Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

**6-9 times:** Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

**5 or less times:** Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.