

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)

questionable	subtly	exaggerated	creepy	inspired
influence	corner	earliest	considers	spirits
remarkable	revealed	educated	manipulated	humankind

Do You Believe in Ghosts?

Ghost stories have been with (a. _____) for thousands of years. There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which make up some of the (b. _____) writings of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-(c. _____) 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 (d. _____) ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the (e. _____) scientific evidence. The poll also (f. _____) 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 (g. _____) by real-life ghost stories. However, many have turned out to be false and (h. _____) before Hollywood even rewrote the story. Others have been (i. _____) 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 (j. _____). Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by (k. _____). At best, some describe a (l. _____) feeling, or see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the (m. _____) of their eye.

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

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.	consider	q.	doubtful
b.	questionable	r.	overstate
c.	reveal	s.	lightly
d.	inspire	t.	show
e.	exaggerate	u.	scary
f.	manipulate	v.	change
g.	remarkable	w.	believe
h.	creepy	x.	extraordinary
i.	subtly	y.	affect
j.	influence	z.	start

STEP THREE

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

	remarkable	considers	influence	questionable	inspired
	revealed	exaggerated	creepy	subtly	manipulated
a.	According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population () ghosts are real.				
b.	The belief is in spite of the () scientific evidence.				
c.	The poll also () that few people have ever seen any spiritual being.				
d.	Many popular programs and movies have been () by real-life ghost stories.				
e.	Many have turned out to be false and () before Hollywood even rewrote the story.				
f.	Others have been () by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale.				
g.	The real-life stories seem much less ().				
h.	At best, some describe a () feeling, or see strange spots of light on film.				
i.	But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world, so they often () affect people.				
j.	They () society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.				

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.