

TELLING GHOST STORIES

Watch the [video](#) "Three Stories Guaranteed To Give You Nightmares" by BuzzFeed.

1 WARM UP

Task 1: Match the words to the correct pictures.

ghost	intruder	alien
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1. alien



2. ghost



3. intruder

Task 2: As a class, debate which one is the scariest.

Task 3: Make a list of six common fears that people have, then discuss each one.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____



2 ADJECTIVES

Task 1: Read aloud the adjectives below, then complete the exercises.

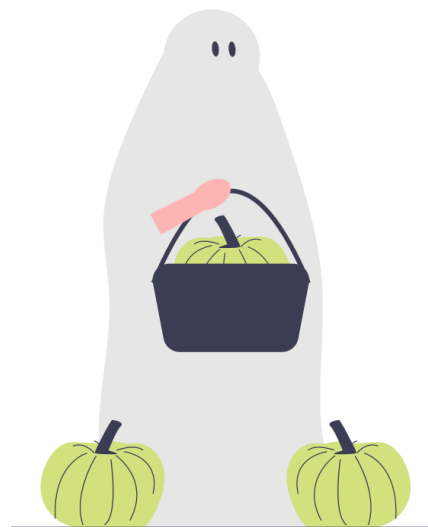
- a. eerie
- b. scary
- c. freaky
- d. spooky
- e. unknown
- f. paranormal
- g. creepy
- h. unusual



Task 2: Discuss the meanings with your teacher.

Task 3: Use the words to describe the following situations.

1. Driving during a thunderstorm.
2. Walking in a graveyard at night.
3. Visiting an abandoned amusement park.
4. Hearing voices as you walk through a forest.
5. Finding a secret room in a basement.
6. Without any reason, books fly off the shelves.
7. Seeing an old doll's eyes move.
8. Seeing a random object flying in the sky.



3 LISTENING: STORY 1

Task: Listen to the first story in the [video](#): Behind the Curtains (0:16-2:14). Match the words from the box to their definitions.

swift

chills

yank

stumble

amiss

- a. a feeling of coldness, often caused by fear. **chills**
- b. to lose balance while walking or running. **stumble**
- c. not quite right; out of place. **amiss**
- d. happening quickly. **swift**
- e. to pull something quickly and forcefully. **yank**

Task 2: Use the words to complete the sentences. You may need to change the tense:

1. And when I'm met with silence, I make a **swift** turn and double-time it to the back door.
2. The kind of inhuman speed that gives you **chills** in all the scary movies.
3. I **yanked** open the door, quickly **stumbled** out and slammed the door shut behind me.
4. I called my dad in the car and he went home to check on the house. But nothing was **amiss**, no one was in the house, and all the doors were locked and secured.

Task 3: Answer the questions about the story.

1. At what time of year did this story take place? **Late fall / autumn.**
2. Where were the speaker's parents? **They had left for work.**
3. Who did the speaker think was walking up the stairs? **His dad.**
4. What did the speaker hear as he was leaving the house? **Footsteps.**
5. Where did he run when he had left the house? **His car.**
6. Who did he call when he was in the car? **His dad.**

Task 4: As a class, discuss what you think was in the house.

4 LISTENING: STORY 2

Task 1: Listen to the first story in the [video](#): *The Shower* (2:20-4:57) and then put the events below in the correct order as you hear them.

- 7. He flipped on the light and went to check the shower.
- 2. He sent all the employees home because of a storm.
- 4. He made his way to the women's locker room.
- 8. He pulled the shower curtain shut.
- 6. He heard the shower curtains being opened for the first time.
- 1. He had to close up an older building for the night.
- 5. He checked all the shower and bathroom stalls, closing lockers etc.
- 9. He set the alarm and ran from the building as quickly as he could.
- 3. He had to walk top to bottom in the building.

Task 2: Answer the questions about the story.

1. Where did the speaker work? **At a gym facility.**
2. How old was the campus building? **90 years old.**
3. Why did he send the other workers home? **There was a storm.**
4. Retell the story to a classmate.
5. Discuss what could have caused the shower curtain to move.

5 LISTENING: STORY 3

Task 1: Listen to the first story in the [video: Handprints \(5:01-6:39\)](#), then say whether or not the following statements are true or false.

- The Road in the story is called Old Town Road. **F, Old State Road.**
- There was a rumour that a woman hung from the bridge above the road. **T**
- You need to put dust on the back of your car to see the handprints. **F, baby powder.**
- There were 5 people in the car. **T**
- The car started to move when they were on the tracks. **F, it never moved.**
- They got home at 2:30 am. **F, 1:00 am**
- They saw tiny handprints on the bumper of the car. **T**

Task 2: Complete the quotes from the video using the following words.

handprints car disappointed scared rumours ghosts

- There were tons of **rumours** about things that would happen on this road.
- ghosts** of the children would push your car off and you could see their handprints.
- We had one of the guys drive because we were so **scared..**
- Disappointed**, my best friend and I dropped the other off at home.
- When we got to her house around 1:00 am, we decided to look at the back of the **car**.
- There was a thin layer of dust and tiny, child-like **handprints** all over the back of the car.

Task 3: Answer the questions about the story.

- Who did the speaker go to the train tracks with?
- How did they get there?
- How did they feel when nothing happened at the train tracks?
- Retell the story to a classmate.
- Can you explain why there were handprints on the car?



6 LINKING WORDS

Task: Study the linking words in the box and then complete the story with them. Note: not all of the words in the box are used, so think carefully.

then	later	finally	in a nutshell	because of
obviously	especially	however	eventually	nonetheless
but	while	despite	even though	in the end

It was the summer of 2012. I was studying at College. **Because of** my exam, I decided not to go on holiday with my parents. **Even though** I hated staying home alone, I agreed to look after the house while they were away.

They left, and I spent the whole day studying. **Despite** having cameras all over the house, I felt anxious being there alone. **Nonetheless**, I continued studying and tried to keep my mind off it. **Eventually**, I decided to take a break and walked over to the camera room. **While** looking through all the rooms of the house on camera, something caught my eye. I saw a dark figure in my bedroom. It was standing in the corner, looking at the camera. **Obviously**, my heart sank. I froze with terror. What should I do? I thought about my options for several minutes. **Finally**, I chose to go to my room and check it out.

I slowly walked over to my bedroom and peered around the corner into my room. **However**, there was nothing there. Confused, I walked back to the camera room. **Then**, I saw the same dark figure standing in my room... staring at the camera. I was too scared to go check a second time, **especially** since I was alone. I called the neighbour to come over. Together, we checked the whole house and found nothing. I stayed at their house that night. I never experienced anything like this again. **In a nutshell**, it was just an unexplained occurrence.



7 RETELL IT BETTER

Use the linking words and the adjectives learned in this lesson to retell this story better. You need to use the phrases in the same order as below.

- Lydia was house sitting for a friend.
- She was scared to be alone.
- She made \$200 for the night.
- The money made it worth it.
- She stayed there the whole day.
- She watched TV.
- It became dark.
- She locked all the doors and windows.
- She went to bed.
- She heard the closet door opening in the room.
- She was scared.
- She remained still.
- She pretended to sleep.
- She waited 10 minutes.
- She looked around.
- She saw someone standing at the side of the bed.
- They were staring at her.
- She got up and ran out the door.
- She ran all the way home.
- She never went to that house again.



8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions as a class.

1. Do you like scary movies?
2. What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?
3. Do you believe in ghosts?
4. Do you have any popular scary stories from your country?
5. Do you believe in aliens?
6. How do you usually celebrate Halloween?





HOMework

1 READ AND COMPLETE

Task: Read the short story and then complete the ending. Remember to use the linking words and adjectives learned in this lesson.

I never liked the town where we live. It is a small, old town - one of those that you drive through without even stopping on your way to a bigger city. Nonetheless, I have lived here all my life. You could describe it as spooky. There is an old, white church in the centre of town that is believed to be haunted. However, I had never seen anything strange until one eerie night...
