

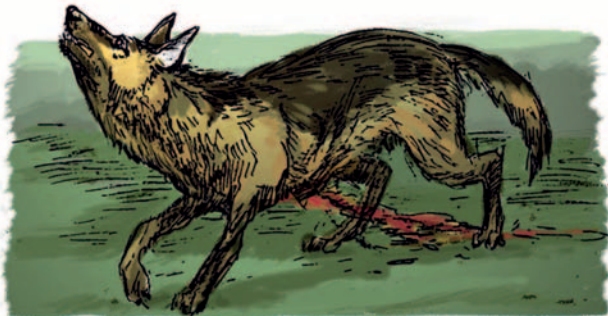
UNIT

1

Fact or fiction?

We have all heard stories of ghosts and monsters and most of us will at times seek out scary experiences such as going through a haunted house or seeing a horror movie. *Monster* is a term for any number of legendary creatures from mythology, legend and horror fiction, and originates from the ancient Latin word ‘monstrum’, meaning ‘omen’ or ‘to warn’. For us, monster usually refers to a person or anything that is evil, grotesque and just very, very scary.

**A** Do you know what the creatures illustrated below are called? Write the names of the creatures in your exercise book.



**Scores**  
1a = 2, 1b = 5, 2a = 2, 2b = 5, 3a = 5, 3b = 2, 4a = 2, 4b = 5  
0–8 = You’re very sensible and level headed. You probably don’t believe in ghosts or vampires.  
9–14 = You are quite logical, but you don’t dismiss strange tales immediately.  
15–20 = Boo! (Did we scare you?) You believe in anything and everything. You probably carry lucky charms around too.

**B** If someone told you a ghost story, would you think it was fact or fiction? Complete the quiz below by writing your answers in your exercise book. Then add up your score.

- 1

You see a bright light in the sky. It looks unfamiliar. You think it is probably:  
(a) a new kind of aeroplane  
(b) an alien spaceship
- 2

When you get some photos developed, they have a strange white shape in them. This is probably:  
(a) light reflecting in an unusual way  
(b) a ghost that cannot be seen by the naked eye
- 3

In bed at night, you hear a strange noise outside the window. This is most likely to be:  
(a) a vampire on the prowl  
(b) the wind in the trees
- 4

When walking in the countryside, you see a strange dark figure running into the trees. This is probably:  
(a) a teenage boy messing about  
(b) Bigfoot making a quick escape before he is seen

# Vocabulary building

## PHRASAL VERBS

**A** There are many phrasal verbs in English. Phrasal verbs are made up of more than one word. Look at the cartoon below and pay special attention to the words in bold – they are phrasal verbs. Choose the best meaning to match each phrasal verb from the options below. Write your answers in your exercise book.



Simon was incredibly bored at the company's annual conference. He **dropped off** during the main speech.



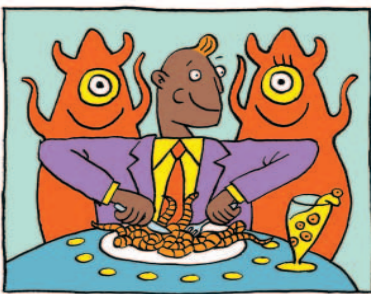
He made up his mind: He didn't want to be a salesman any more. He would fulfil his ambition of being a writer. He **sloped off** to his room.



He **checked out** as quickly as possible, hoping no one would see him. Tomorrow, he would resign; but for now, he wanted to start writing!



He hurried home. Suddenly, he was blinded by a glaring light. It looked like a ... UFO.



He was treated to dinner. He ate Zinboids and drank Query. The aliens were very friendly.



After just an hour, he was back on the pavement. He **pressed on** towards home. Now he really had something to write about.

- 1 **Dropped off** (a) let fall from his hands (b) fell asleep (c) got annoyed
- 2 **Sloped off** (a) left in a sneaky way and avoided doing work (b) decided to pay one more visit (c) was excited about working
- 3 **Checked out** (a) disguised himself so he didn't look like himself (b) departed in a big hurry (c) handed over the hotel key and paid his bill
- 4 **Pressed on** (a) felt shocked and excited at the same time (b) felt reluctant (c) hurried in a determined way

## PREDICTION

We can often tell a lot about a text just by looking at it briefly. For example, we may be able to predict what could happen in a piece of writing by reading the title or the first paragraph.

- (a) Read the title of the story following. Who or what could 'the White Witch' be?
- (b) Now read the first paragraph of the story. What do you think happens next?
- (c) Discuss your ideas with your partner, then make notes about what you discussed in your exercise book.

## Reading

Do you believe in the supernatural? Read this story about a man's trip to a hotel in Jamaica.



# A visit from the White Witch

Usually, my working life as a dentist presents me with little more dramatic than a serious root cavity or a chipped crown – until I stayed at a hotel near to Montego Bay, Jamaica, that is. After that, I was never quite the same again.

It had been a long day. I was attending the Dentists' Annual Convention at a five-star hotel and had arrived at the airport at the crack of dawn that day. So, by the time evening dinner finished at 9 p.m. I felt shattered. I made my excuses and sloped off upstairs to bed. By 9.10 p.m. I was in my pyjamas, in bed, reading a book.

I was so exhausted I couldn't read properly. I could feel my eyelids growing heavy and, unable to hold them open any longer, turned off the light and settled down for a much-needed sleep.

I'm sure I sensed something even as I was dropping off; a subtle chill that entered the room.

But I didn't let it bother me. I pulled the duvet tighter around myself and fell, fast and heavily, asleep.

Then I heard it ... a gentle whisper, right next to my ear. 'Hello, handsome!' a voice said, as I felt hot breath upon my skin. I sat bolt upright and switched on the light. I scrutinised the room. There was no one there. I told myself it must have been a dream, that my imagination was working overtime. It took a few minutes for my pulse to return to normal, yet eventually I did manage to get back to sleep.

I was dreaming of sandy beaches and cocktails when I jerked wide awake again. This time I felt a hand, as cold as ice, caressing my face and hair. I switched the bedside lamp on again, but I was completely alone. My skin felt electrified. I did not get another minute's sleep that night.

The next morning, I checked out as early as