

Can you explain it?

A Everyday explanations

1 Add *-less* or *-ful* to the word in parentheses to complete each sentence.

- I just broke my cell phone. Now it's _____ *useless* (use)!
- I got _____ (meaning) information from Dr. Jacobs. I think I will be healthier if I follow her advice.
- A lot of trees fell last night in that _____ (power) windstorm.
- Benny and Tom went bungee jumping. They're _____ (fear)!
- Laura is such a _____ (care) driver. She always drives too fast.
- Air pollution is _____ (harm). It can make you sick.
- I don't know how to help you, I feel so _____ (power).
- Penny has a big dog, but it's _____ (harm). It won't hurt you.
- Mr. Garcia's explanation was very _____ (use). I finally understand algebra!
- You can borrow my computer, but please be _____ (care) with it.
- Sue is very _____ (fear) of animals. She won't even go to a zool
- That question was completely _____ (meaning). No one knew how to answer it.



2 Write your own ideas.

- Two things that are useful for school: a computer and _____
- Two things that are harmful to the environment: _____ and _____
- Two things you should be careful doing: _____ and _____
- Two people who are fearless: _____ and _____
- Two meaningful classes you have taken: _____ and _____
- Two inventions that are useful: _____ and _____

3 Complete the webpage with past modals of the verbs in parentheses.

www.localmysteries/cup.com

KimKim: Last night I saw a strange light in the sky. Did anyone see it?
What could it have been (be)?

DonRJ: The city might _____ (have) some fireworks.

Rita86: Fireworks make noise. It was too quiet last night. You couldn't _____ (see) fireworks.


QT007: I saw the light, too. I think something could _____ (fall) from an airplane.

CindyT: It couldn't _____ (come) from a plane. Look at the picture... It's going across the sky, not down.

WhyMe: OK. KimKim must _____ (take) this picture with her camera open for a long time. I'm sure she's kidding!

PeteOP: Did anyone hear a strange noise on Main Street last night? I think it might _____ (be) a wild animal!

Jeff1982: You couldn't _____ (hear) a wild animal, PeteOP. There aren't any wild animals around here.



4 Complete the sentences with past modals. Use *must*, *couldn't*, or *could* and the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- I don't know why Patricio wasn't in class today. He could have been (be) sick.
- Tracey was at a concert last night, and she saw her favorite band. I'm sure she _____ (have) fun!
- Jackie _____ (drink) milk. She can't have dairy at all.
- My sister hasn't called me all week. She usually calls me every day. I wonder if she _____ (lose) her cell phone.
- I've been waiting for Tonya at the airport for an hour. I'm sure her plane _____ (leave) late.
- Marianna is really good at math. She _____ (got) a bad grade on the test.
- Oh, no! My mother _____ (try) to call me. My cell phone has been off, and there's a missed call. She always calls me at this time.

- 5 Why wasn't Larry in class yesterday? Complete the sentences with past modals. Use *must*, *couldn't*, or *might* and the correct form of the phrases in the chart.

	Not sure	Sure
Steve	be sick	be at home
Clara	go out with friends	not stay at home
Diana	miss the bus	have a good reason
Ken	watch the baseball game on TV	forget about class
Tina	go to a job interview	need to miss class
Mr. Anderson	think there was no class	not check the class schedule

- Steve thinks Larry might have been sick.
He must have been at home because his car was there.
- Clara thinks Larry _____.
She says he _____ because she went to his house after school, and he wasn't there.
- Diana thinks Larry _____.
She says he _____ for not coming.
- Ken thinks Larry _____.
He says Larry _____.
- Tina thinks Larry _____.
She says he _____.
- Mr. Anderson thinks Larry _____.
He says Larry _____.

- 6 Look at each picture. Write what you think happened. Use past modals.

Example: She must have broken her arm.



- She _____

- She _____



- He _____

- He _____

B

I'm pretty sure that . . .

1 Complete the chart. Write the sentences from the box in the correct column.

- But it's likely that there is water on Mars.
- But it's very probable that some kind of life was there.
- ✓ I doubt that people ever lived on Mars.
- I'm pretty sure that there used to be trees on Mars.
- It's highly unlikely that there were trees on Mars.
- Well, it's doubtful that I would ever get the chance.

Expressing probability	Expressing improbability
_____	<u>I doubt that people ever lived on Mars.</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

2 Complete the conversation with the sentences from Exercise 1.

Josh: Look at this article, Brian. It says that at one time there might have been life on Mars. Do you believe that's possible?

Brian: Well, I doubt that people ever lived on Mars¹. I mean, scientists would have figured that out.

Josh: I agree that people couldn't have lived on Mars. _____².

Brian: What do you mean?²

Josh: Well, you know, like plant life.

Brian: No way! _____³. Scientists . . .

Josh: OK, OK. Maybe you're right. _____⁴
I think there are rivers or maybe even a lake.⁵

Brian: Well, *maybe* in the past, but I don't think there's that much water now. . . .
Hey, would you go to Mars if you had the chance?

Josh: _____⁶. But if I did get the chance, I guess I would go!



1 Complete the news report with the words from the box.

abduction	discovery	explosion
✓ disappearance	escape	theft

"Coming up tonight on PSB news in Miami . . . Our first story, from Houston, Texas, is about the disappearance¹ of Terrance Wellington, a well-known Houston artist. His family says they haven't seen him since Tuesday morning. Next, Jamie Sanders is in Mexico, and she'll tell you about the _____² of a new pyramid near Mexico City. That's exciting news because a new pyramid has not been found in several years. In San Francisco, we have news about a big _____³. People in the area say the noise was frightening and extremely loud. Two restaurants burned. And don't miss this story . . . There was a _____⁴ in a museum in New York on Saturday. Robbers took a painting worth 15 million dollars. We also have a local story that happened right here in Florida. Carl Frey will tell you about a prison _____⁵. Two men broke out of a prison in Jacksonville. Fortunately, police caught them a few hours later. And our last story tonight is about an alien _____⁶. Is it true or not? Dan Alvarado interviews two people in Phoenix, Arizona, who claim they were taken aboard a UFO by aliens. All this and more after these messages."

2 Label each picture with the number and word from the correct news story in Exercise 1.



1 disappearance

3 Circle the correct words to complete the conversation.

Greg: Hi, Ahn. Do you have any idea what₁ if a total solar eclipse is?

Ahn: Sure. It's what happens when the moon is between the sun and earth.

Greg: Oh, OK. Do you know how₂ if that's why the sky gets black?

Ahn: Yes, it is. You can't see light from the sun because of where the moon is.

Greg: And can you tell me how long₃ what it lasts?

Ahn: Well, it depends. The shortest eclipses are usually about a minute.

Greg: Do you have any idea how long₄ how many the longest eclipse can be?

Ahn: It can be over seven minutes, but that hardly ever happens.

Greg: Do you know how tall₅ if solar eclipses happen every year?

Ahn: Yes, they do.

Greg: And can you tell me how many₆ if there are each year?

Ahn: There can be between two and five eclipses each year, but there can never be more than two total eclipses.

Greg: Interesting. Thanks, Ahn.



4 Write embedded *yes / no* questions with the words in parentheses. Use the simple past.

1. (Can you tell me / Zorro / be / a real person)

Can you tell me if Zorro was a real person?

2. (Do you know / anyone / find / Amelia Earhart's plane)

3. (Do you have any idea / the Egyptians / build / the first pyramid)

4. (Can you tell me / people / find / an underwater pyramid in Japan)

5. (Do you have any idea / anyone / escape / from Alcatraz prison)

6. (Do you know / the abduction / be / on the news)



5 Look at B's responses. Use *Can you tell me* or *Do you know* to write embedded *Wh-* questions about these famous places.

1. A: Can you tell me how long the Tsing Ma Bridge is?

B: Yes, I can. The Tsing Ma Bridge is about 1.4 kilometers long.

2. A: Do you know _____?

B: Yes, I do. The Eiffel Tower is 324 meters tall.

3. A: _____

B: Yes, I can. Two people escaped from Alcatraz prison.

4. A: _____

B: Yes, I can. The Sphinx is 60 meters long.

5. A: _____

B: Yes, I do. The Pyramid of the Sun is about 75 meters tall.

6. A: _____

B: Yes, I do. There are about 13,000 taxis in New York City.



6 Answer the questions with *Yes* or *No*. Add more information.

Example: No. But I know there are over one million. or
Yes. There are 2.5 million people in my country.

1. Do you know how many people there are in your country?

2. Do you have any idea what the population of your city is?

3. Do you know if there are any mysteries about people or places in your country?

4. Do you have any idea what famous writers are from your country?

5. Do you know where famous people go for vacation in your country?

D

Explanations from long ago

1 Read the magazine interview. What is rongorongo? Circle the correct answer.

- a. the name of a people b. the name of a writing system c. the name of an island

Lisa Olsen talks about rongorongo with Dr. Gomez . . .



EASTER ISLAND, in the Pacific Ocean, is famous for its large stone statues that were made hundreds of years ago. But not many people know about rongorongo. It is the name of the writing found on tablets, large pieces of wood, on Easter Island. I spoke with Dr. Ramiro Gomez about this mysterious writing system.

Q: Dr. Gomez, what is rongorongo?

A: Rongorongo is a writing system found on Easter Island. It doesn't have letters like English. It uses *glyphs*, which are pictures or symbols, to represent different things. In the 1850s, people discovered wooden tablets with the rongorongo glyphs on them. Today, there are only 21 of these tablets. The rest have disappeared.

Q: Can you tell me what the tablets say?

A: Many people have tried to figure out what the different glyphs mean. But so far, no one has figured out rongorongo completely. Some of the glyphs look like different animals in the area . . . birds, sea turtles, and fish. It also seems that some of the glyphs represent plants. We're pretty sure that one of the tablets has a calendar on it, but no one has figured out exactly how the calendar works.

Q: Do you know how and when the tablets were made?

A: We know that the glyphs were carved with shark's teeth. We also know that they are very old. Researchers say they might have been made in the late 1600s.

Q: If we can't read the language, are the tablets useless?

A: Definitely not. They still tell us a lot about the people who made them. For example, they had their own written language and wanted to record their history.

Q: Is there more to learn from the tablets?

A: Yes, there is. People will be studying rongorongo for many years. Hopefully, someone will solve the mystery of what is on the tablets.

2 Read the interview again. Write T (true), F (false), or NI (no information).

- Rongorongo has 21 letters. F
- Some of the symbols in rongorongo look like animals.
- There are sea turtles near Easter Island.
- The symbols were made with shark's teeth.
- Rongorongo doesn't tell us anything.
- Dr. Gomez will continue researching rongorongo.