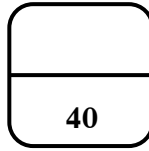


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Unit 3 / A funny thing happened

Reading

We often hear people say. "It's a small world, isn't it?" it's usually when they've just experienced one of those strange coincidences that seems to happen in nearly everyone's lives. You know the kind of thing : you're on holiday in another country and you run into a person you know from home, even though neither of you knew that the other was going there too.

People often think experiences like this are evidence of something mysterious happening, some kind of hidden plan outside our knowledge. The scientific explanation is less exciting, and perhaps that's why some people are reluctant to accept it. Coincidences are events that unexpectedly happen at the same time for no clear reason, or finding an unexpected connection between seemingly random things or people. A very common example of the latter is talking to a complete stranger and finding that you have the same birthday. What are those chances of that happening?

Actually, the chances are better than you might think, and there is a mathematical way to prove it. It has been calculated that the number of people you need to have a 50% chance of two of them sharing the same birthday is 23. And when there're are 48 people in a room, the probability goes up to 95%. To put it another way, if there are only 50 people reading these words (and I hope there are more!), one of them will almost certainly have the same birthday as me.

The other part of the scientific explanation for coincidences is simply that there are so many events in people's lives. Just think of the number of people you have had any kind of connection with during your life. There are probably over 10,000, and the older you get, the more there will be. If you are the kind of person who talks to strangers, you will definitely come across coincidences. Basically, when you think about how complex our lives are, especially nowadays with the internet, the only surprising thing is that coincidences don't happen more often.

Answer the following questions: (11 m)

1. What do people think of coincidences?

2. What two definitions of "coincidence" does the writer give?

a. _____

b. _____

3. How does the writer prove coincidences scientifically?

4. When do you definitely come across coincidences?

Decide whether each of the following is True(T) or False (F):

1. Strange coincidences make people say, "It's a small world, isn't it?" ()

2. People prefer more exciting explanation for strange coincidences than scientific explanations. ()

3. The writer concludes that coincidences happen more often than we think. ()

What do these pronouns refer to?

1. **this** (L. 6) _____

2. **it** (L.8) _____

3. **them** (L. 16) _____

4. **10000** (L.19) _____

Vocabulary

A) Choose suitable phrasal verbs from the box to complete the following sentences: (5 m)

run into

put up

catch up

found out

came across

1. When you visit our country, please tell me, I'm ready to _____ you _____ in my apartment.

2. My sister was walking very fast; I couldn't _____ with her.

3. We _____ our neighbors lost bag; we didn't expect that at all.

4. I was surprised to _____ Ashraf when I was in the park.

5. Amr was really shocked when he _____ that his friend had told his secret to others.

B) Complete the following sentences using the right word from the box: (6 m)

reluctant straight patting knowledge colleague latter

1. The dog seems happy because the child is _____ its head gently
2. Most women are _____ to answer questions about their weight and age.
3. I had two opinions, history and geography so I chose the _____.
4. It's my belief that _____ is power.
5. I felt tired when I got home so I had gone _____ to bed
6. He left his job after an argument with his _____.

C) Complete the sentences using the words in the box with (co or mis): (5 m)

hear operation behave operate lead

1. Paying children too much attention when they _____ can be self-defeating.
 2. Information in adverts isn't usually untrue, but it can _____ people and give them the wrong idea.
 3. The success couldn't have been achieved without your _____
 4. The soldier didn't follow the orders. He must have _____ the leader's words.
 5. Let's all _____ to get the work done quickly and perfectly.
-

Language

1- Complete the sentences with the correct tense of verbs in brackets: (9 m)

1. When I went in yesterday, everyone _____ (**laugh**) probably because someone _____ just _____ (**tell**) them a joke.
2. An old woman knocked at the front door while I _____ TV in the sitting room. (**watch**)
3. The film wasn't very good. I _____ (**not enjoy**) it very much yesterday.
4. I was waiting in the queue at passport control when suddenly I _____ (**realize**) that I _____ (**forget**) my passport.
5. Hadeel passed the exam easily because she _____ long time studying. (**spend**)
6. When Sara came home, she realized that someoneher apartment. (**break**)

2- Join the two sentences: (4 m)

- 1- The students were making noise. The teacher punished them. (**because**)
.....
- 2- I went home. I had taken a shower. (**As soon as**)
.....
- 3- I spent a long time studying this subject. I passed the exam easily. (**because**)
.....
- 4- I saw Sami. He was shouting loudly at his son. (**When**)
.....