READING AND LISTENING

Ghost stories

1 Do you believe in ghosts? What would you do if you saw a ghost? Would you talk to it? Would you run away?

2 You are going to read about a man called Aelwyn Roberts. He's a ghostbuster.

Do you think he . . . ?

- believes or doesn't believe in ghosts.
- tries to find ghosts.
- tries to get rid of ghosts.

Read the text and find out.

3 Are the statements true (✓) or false (✗)? Correct the false ones.

1 Mr Roberts is a social worker.
2 He helps to sort out problems for both people and ghosts.
3 He is sure that ghosts exist.
4 The boy knew it was his great-grandfather at the end of his bed.
5 The old man made the boy laugh.
6 Mr Roberts solved the boy's problem easily.
7 Ghosts are not usually members of the family.
8 Mr Roberts says you should never talk firmly to ghosts.

4 T 12.5 Look at the newspaper extract on the right, then listen to an interview with Alice Lester.

Check that you know these words.

brain scan	consultant	tumour	operation

5 Answer the questions.

1 Did Alice Lester know she was ill before she heard the voices?
2 What was she doing when she first heard the voices?
3 What did the first voice tell her?
4 What happened while she was away on holiday?
5 What happened when she returned to London?
6 Did the consultant believe what she told him?
7 What did the voices finally tell her? How is she now?

What do you think?

- Do you think Alice Lester's story is a ghost story?
- Do you believe that Mr Roberts really gets rid of ghosts?

Telling stories

Do you know any ghost stories? In small groups, tell your ghost stories. Which is the most frightening?

Woman heard 'voices' telling her of tumour

by John Crutchley

The mysterious case of Alice Lester appeared in the British Medical Journal. Alice claims that she heard voices in her head which correctly told her that she had a brain tumour.

I'M A GHOSTBUSTER, SAYS VICAR

Aelwyn Roberts, 79, used to be a vicar. He's retired now, but he still works as a ghostbuster. He helps people who have ghosts in their houses to get rid of them.

'I'm a kind of social worker for ghosts,' he explains. 'Some people die and they still have problems when they leave this world, so they come back again as ghosts to sort them out. I don't think ghosts *might* exist. I know they *do* exist.'

He says he has met thousands of ghosts trapped between this world and the next. He helps them sort out their problems so they can move on to the next world.

One example is typical. At exactly nine every night a three-year-old boy got out of bed and came downstairs. When his parents asked him to explain why, he said that he saw an old man in a funny hat sitting on the end of the bed and the man told him to get out of his bed and go downstairs.

For Mr Roberts this was simple to sort out. He moved the boy's bed from one part of the room to another. 'The ghost was the boy's great-grandfather and the bed was in his way', he explains. The family were never troubled again.

'Eighty per cent of the time the ghosts are members of the family. I tell people that if they want me to get rid of them, I might be throwing their grandmother out of the house. I worry that they might miss her.'

Mr Roberts calls ghosts 'yesterday's people'. His advice is simple. 'You just need to tell them, firmly, to go away and leave you alone.'

VOCABULARY

Phrasal verbs

1 Phrasal verbs consist of a verb + adverb/preposition. Some phrasal verbs are literal.

Go away *and leave me alone.*
Take off *your coat and come and* ***sit down.***

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

out (x2)	up	on	back

1 Put ____ something warm. It's cold today.
2 There's some ice-cream in the freezer. Can you get it ____ ?
3 Why are your clothes on the floor? Please pick them ____ .
4 I'm going to take the dog ____ for a walk.
5 When are you going ____ to your country?

Do or mime these actions.

turn round	walk out	try something on	throw something away
look for something	turn something off	fall over	lie down

2 Some phrasal verbs aren't literal.

'Can you ***sort out*** *this problem?'* *The plane* ***took off.*** *I* ***gave up*** *my job.*

Do or mime these actions.

look after a baby	put out a cigarette	look up a word	ask somebody out
we've run out of milk	my car broke down	Look out!	fill in a form

3 Look at the position of the object when it is a pronoun in these sentences.

Your shoes are dirty. Take ***them*** *off.* *This jumper looks nice. Can I try* ***it*** *on?*

Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from exercises 1–2. Use pronouns.

1 'Where's my tea?' 'Sorry. I threw _____ . It was cold.'
2 You shouldn't smoke in here. Put _____ .
3 We don't need all these lights on. Turn _____ .
4 Leave little Annie with me. I'll look _____ .
5 I haven't got time to fill in this form. I'll fill _____ later.

4 Complete the sentences with one of these phrasal verbs in the correct form.

grow up	go out with	fall out with	get on with	look forward to

1 How do you _____ your parents?
2 Do you ever _____ your brothers and sisters?
3 What are you _____ doing on holiday?
4 Are you _____ anyone at the moment?
5 Where did you _____ ? Or have you always lived here?

In pairs, ask and answer the questions about you.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Social expressions 2

1 Complete the conversations with the correct expressions.

I'm sorry	Excuse me	of course	Pardon

1 **A** _____ ! Can I get past?
B _____ ?
A Can I get past, please?
B _____ . I didn't hear you. Yes, _____ .
A Thanks a lot.

That's right	Oh, what a pity	Congratulations	Never mind	I hear

2 **A** _____ you're going to get married soon. _____ !
B _____ , next July. July 21. Can you come to the wedding?
A _____ ! That's when we're away on holiday.
C _____ . We'll send you some wedding cake.
A That's very kind.

Hurry up	all right	Oh, dear	Just a minute	I haven't a clue

3 **A** _____ ! Look at the time! _____ , or we'll miss the train.
B _____ ! I can't find my umbrella. Do you know where it is?
A _____ . But you won't need it. It's a lovely day. Just look at the sky!
B Oh, _____ . Let's go, then.

Good luck	See you later	Same to you	Good idea	What about you
No, of course not				

4 **A** _____ in your exam!
B _____ . I hope we both pass.
A Did you go out last night?
B _____ . I went to bed early. _____ ?
A Me, too. _____ after the exam. Let's go for a drink.
B _____ .

2 **T 12.6** Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

3 Listen to your teacher. Reply using one of the expressions.