

# **UNIT 3** *Read and Write*

## **En esta unidad vas a:**

- leer una crónica periodística que habla de una investigación sobre fantasmas
- aprender a escribir una historia de fantasmas utilizando adjetivos.



# PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES EXPLAINED AT LAST



**After the largest investigation ever into the paranormal, a team of British scientists has come to the conclusion that there are no such things as ghosts. Their research, however, does prove the existence of haunted houses.**

The scientists from the University of Hertfordshire used two of the most haunted places in Britain for their research: Hampton Court, one of the palaces belonging to Henry VIII in London, and the South Bridge Vaults, a series of dimly-lit rooms built under a bridge in Edinburgh. The ghost of one of Henry VIII's six wives, Catherine Howard, is said to live in Hampton Court, and people have seen the ghost of a boy pulling terrified visitors' clothes in the South Bridge Vaults.

In the Hampton Court experiment a guard showed the scientists the areas in the palace where petrified people have reported seeing ghosts. The team then asked 462 visitors to walk around the palace and tell them if, and where, they felt anything strange. Many of the areas where the frightened visitors felt a strange sensation corresponded exactly to the areas identified by the guard. However, when the scientists analysed these scary spots with their equipment, they discovered that they often stood in a draught or in dark places where there was very little light.

In Edinburgh, a tour guide chose ten rooms in the South Bridge Vaults and put them in order according to the number of frightening paranormal experiences people have had in them. Then 200 volunteers were put into groups of twenty and each group went to spend ten minutes in one of the ten rooms. Afterwards they answered questions about their sensations in the gloomy room. The scientists found that the most haunted rooms were the smallest and the darkest, especially when there was a brightly-lit corridor outside.

The results of these two experiments led the scientists to conclude that people do not actually see a ghost when they have a paranormal experience, but they feel something spooky that they interpret as a ghost. In other words, in the opinion of the Hertfordshire scientists, ghosts do not exist but haunted houses do.



**1 Elige la respuesta correcta.**



- 1 The article says the investigation was the **first** / **biggest** of its kind.
- 2 The South Bridge Vaults are **in an old palace** / **under a bridge**.
- 3 People say the ghost in Hampton Court is a **woman** / **boy**.
- 4 In the first experiment a guard identified the **ghosts** / **haunted areas**.
- 5 The most haunted places were **dark and airy** / **light with no air**.
- 6 In the second experiment each volunteer spent ten minutes in **ten rooms** / **one room**.
- 7 The most haunted rooms were near a **dark** / **light** corridor.
- 8 The results of the experiment show that **ghosts** / **haunted houses** exist.

**2 Responde a las preguntas.**

Who carried out the investigation?  
**A team of British scientists.**

- 1 Who lived in Hampton Court in the past?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Who's the ghost in Hampton Court?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How many people took part in the Hampton Court experiment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Who chose the ten rooms in the South Bridge Vaults?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 How many people took part in the South Bridge Vaults experiment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 What do the scientists think happens when people have a paranormal experience?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Words to remember**

**3 Busca las palabras en el texto.**

People who study science (paragraph 1).  
**scientists**



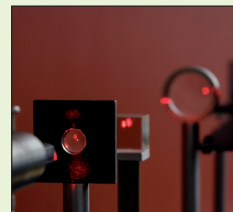
- 1 Buildings where kings and queens live (paragraph 2).  
\_\_\_\_\_



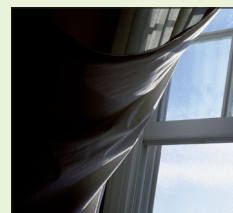
- 2 A person who protects a building (paragraph 3).  
\_\_\_\_\_



- 3 Special machines (paragraph 3).  
\_\_\_\_\_



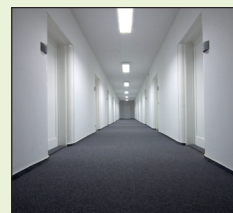
- 4 Air that enters a room (paragraph 3).  
\_\_\_\_\_



- 5 People who offer to do something (paragraph 4).  
\_\_\_\_\_



- 6 A narrow passage with doors that open into rooms (paragraph 4).  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Using adjectives to write a ghost story

Los adjetivos *scared*, *frightened* y *afraid* (asustado/a) se utilizan para describir sensaciones de miedo.

**I'm scared.**

Estoy asustada.

**He was frightened.**

Estaba asustado.

**They're afraid.**

Tienen miedo.

Los adjetivos *terrified* (aterrorizado/a) y *petrified* (muerto/a de miedo) se emplean para describir sensaciones de miedo más intensas.

**We're terrified.**

Estamos aterrorizados.

**She was petrified.**

Estaba muerta de miedo.

Los adjetivos *scary* (aterrorador/ora), *frightening* (aterrorador/ora, siniestro/a) y *spooky* (espeluznante, terrorífico) se utilizan para describir personas o cosas que dan miedo.

**a scary journey**

un viaje aterrador

**a frightening old man**

un viejo siniestro

**a spooky place**

un lugar espeluznante

Los adjetivos *dark* (oscuro/a), *gloomy* (gris, lúgubre) and *dimly-lit* (poco iluminado/a) se pueden emplear para describir el ambiente de un lugar que inspira miedo.

**a dark room**

una habitación oscura

**a gloomy corner**

un rincón lúgubre

**a dimly-lit corridor**

un pasillo poco iluminado

### 1 Elige la respuesta correcta.

About ten years ago, a friend of mine went to work in a **1 frightened / terrified / spooky** shop in Wales. On his first day he noticed a freezing cold spot near the back door of the shop, where the temperature never changed. When he told the shop owner, she told him that an old woman had died in that exact place before the building became a shop, and now the shop was **2 haunted / afraid / gloomy**. At this point my friend wasn't **3 scary / afraid / frightening** and he made a joke about the old woman.

The next day, my friend heard a **4 scary / petrified / haunted** noise behind him and when he turned around, he felt the ghost of the old woman walk straight through him. Later, a large knife flew across the **5 terrified / afraid / dimly-lit** room and only just missed him. Another day, he was cutting cheese in the cellar when the door closed and he was trapped in the **6 gloomy / scared / petrified** hole for over an hour. He was very **7 gloomy / scared / haunted** now, but the worst was still to come.



A few days later, when he was in the shop, the old woman materialized next to him. She touched him on the arm and her hands felt like ice. By now he was absolutely **8 afraid / gloomy / petrified**. He screamed and ran out of the shop into the street. When he went back, the old woman had gone, but my friend had had enough. He decided to leave his job and to return to London.