Exercise 1
Discuss the questions.

1. Do you believe in ghosts?
2. Do you believe houses can be haunted?
3. Would you like to spend a night in a haunted house?
4. Have you ever felt you were not alone in a strange place?
5. If you saw a ghost, what would you do?

Exercise 2
Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box.

black, curse, spirits, paralysed, midnight, shiver

1. If someone puts a _____ on a person, they will never become successful.
2. Hundreds of years ago, there was white and _____ magic, but these days, they don't exist.
3. If you _____ for no reason, you feel a presence of a ghost.
4. _____ of dead people can visit their relatives in their houses.
5. If you wake up _____ in the middle of the night, a ghost is watching you.
6. Ghosts usually wake up at _____ and walk around a city or a graveyard.

Do you agree with these statements?



Exercise 3
Read the beginning of a ghost story.
Predict the ending of the story.

I was camping with my husband and his family at a small, remote lake in New Mexico. There were about 10 people in our group and another group of six people in the next campsite. It was nighttime and both groups were doing typical activities: making s'mores, having a few drinks and telling stories, when we all heard what sounded like a little girl yelling out for help. Neither group had children with them, but we were all positive we were hearing a little girl and decided to search the area we heard the noises from together.

ESL LAB

Read the end of the story. Were your predictions correct?

There was a field behind our campsites, and we all saw a very tall, pure white figure standing maybe 100ft away from us in the field, making the noises. We all agreed this thing looked maybe 6 feet tall, skinny, and white as can be. We made our way closer to investigate, but whatever it was that we saw started backing off as we got closer, and it disappeared into the trees. All night, we continued to hear a little girl calling for help as we tried to sleep.

Exercise 4
Discuss the questions.

1. What do you think they saw in the forest?
2. Why do you think this being was in the forest?
3. Why do you think this being was screaming?
4. Have you or your friends ever seen something similar?
5. Do you think it's a true story?

1) Which sentence describes the continuous action? - _____

A. I was camping with my husband and his family.
B. We all saw a very tall, pure white figure.

2) Which sentence describes the background information in the story? - _____

A. We decided to search the area.
B. Both groups were doing typical activities: making s'mores, having a few drinks and telling stories

3) Which action was longer and interrupted by another action?
We were having a few drinks and telling stories, when we all heard screams.

a) were having
b) heard

We use the Past Continuous to talk about continuous actions in the past/present.

The Past Continuous usually describes main events/ background situation.

The Past Continuous action is usually shorted/longer and interrupted by another action in the Past Simple.

ESL LAB

Exercise 5
Read a short story and complete it with the correct form of the verb.

After my parents _____ (to divorce) when I _____ (to be) a teenager, I _____ (to live) with my mother. I _____ (to experience) lots of paranormal happenings. Several times when I _____ (to read) in my bed, the room _____ (to start) to feel really "icy." Next, it (to feel) as if something/somebody that hated me _____ (to stare) at me. When I _____ (to get) that feeling, I _____ (to leave) the room and _____ (to come) back an hour later. Sometimes during the day, I _____ (to see) a shadow figure that _____ (to sneak) along my bedroom walls.

Something in the flat _____ (to pretend) to be my dog. I _____ (to go) into my room and _____ (to hear) a deep growl from under the bed. My dog _____ (not to be) capable of making a noise that deep. It _____ (to sound) like either a really big dog or a man doing his best dog impersonation. Other times, my dog _____ (to whimper) and _____ (to pace) in the room next to mine but _____ (not to come) when called, as if he was afraid of something in the hallway.

When I _____ (to move) in with my father, the paranormal activity _____ (to stop).

Exercise 6
Write a horror story using the pictures and the prompts. Share it with your partners.



to drive at night



a graveyard

ESL LAB



a ghost in the lake



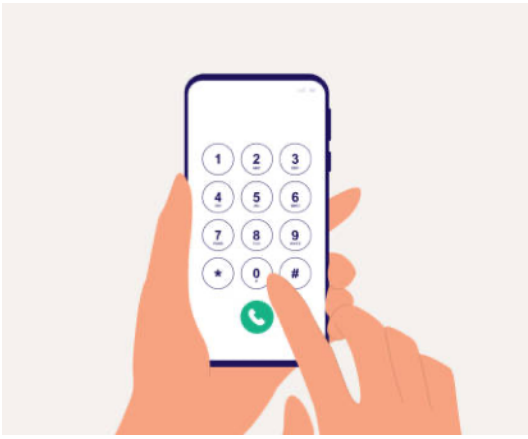
to run away,
to scream in horror



can’t start a car



to bang on the
back of the car



to try to call for help,
to have no service



to finally start



to look back, a ghost

ESL LAB