

UNIT 9 ■ Achievement Test

Name _____

🔊 Listen to the conversation. Read the questions. The listen again and circle the letter of the correct answer.

Example: What is "Man-made Mysteries"?

- ☒ a. It's a television program.
- b. It's a radio program.
- c. It's a science textbook.

1. How does the woman feel about the stone balls of Costa Rica?
 - a. It's possible that she's interested in them.
 - b. She probably isn't interested in them.
 - c. Clearly, she's interested in them.
2. What does the man first think about the stone balls?
 - a. He thinks it's possible they occurred naturally.
 - b. He thinks there's no question they were man-made.
 - c. He thinks it's obvious they were man-made.
3. What did the show say about the stone balls?
 - a. They could have occurred naturally.
 - b. That it's not possible to know how they were formed.
 - c. They had to have been man-made.
4. Which of the following do the man and woman speculate about?
 - a. They discuss what the stone balls could have possibly been used for.
 - b. They discuss who the sculptor who made the stone balls could have been.
 - c. They discuss how long it might have taken to make the stone balls.
5. Does the woman think that the stone balls could have fallen from space?
 - a. She thinks it's likely they did.
 - b. She thinks the idea is very questionable.
 - c. She thinks it seems possible that they may have.
6. What do the man and woman disagree about?
 - a. They disagree about the possible use of the stone balls.
 - b. They disagree about the date the stone balls were discovered.
 - c. They disagree about the size of the stone balls.

Read each statement. Check certain or not certain.

	certain	not certain
Example: "The conservative candidate will most likely win the election this year."	☐	☒
7. "I left my purse on the train. I'll call the lost-and-found; maybe someone turned it in."	☐	☐
8. "It's possible that it might rain tomorrow."	☐	☐
9. "Look at all this traffic! There's no question we're going to miss our flight. We'll have to catch the later one."	☐	☐

Read each statement. Then write sentences, using expressions of certainty to speculate about what happened.

Example: "A loud noise woke me last night, but I have no idea what it was."

Maybe your cat knocked something over.

10. "I came to class at the right time, but the classroom was empty."

11. "The door to Jack's apartment was open and the lights were on, but no one was home."

12. "I can't find my wallet or my keys. They were in my pocket when I left the house this morning."

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. You will not use all of the words.

questionable	debatable
believable	probable
unsolvable	provable

Example: Since the study was flawed, its results are very questionable.

13. With no witnesses or proof, the mystery is _____.

14. The question of whether or not solar power is the answer to the energy crisis is _____.
Experts offer many other solutions as well.

15. There are several theories about the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, but with so little evidence, none are _____.

Read the e-mail from Sally to Monica. Then complete the e-mail from Monica to Kathleen, using the correct modals.

The screenshot shows an email client window with a toolbar at the top containing icons for Send, Save, Spelling, Address, Print, Mail, and Attach. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with 'Favorites', 'History', and 'Search'. The email header shows 'To: Monica Robinson <mrobinson@mail.com>', 'Fr: Sally Smith <sally.smith@mail.com>', and 'Subject: Hello'. The body of the email reads: 'Hi Monica, I'm so sorry that I wasn't able to meet you and Kathleen at the party last night. I **have to** tell you though, when you hear what happened to me yesterday, you **will** never believe it! I ran into Steve in the morning and he said he **might** be able to get Coldplay tickets for that night! You know they're my favorite band! Anyway, he got the tickets and we went to the show! When he said he got the tickets I expected they **would** be terrible seats but—you **may** not believe this—they were front row center! I'm sorry about missing the party. I know I **should** have called you, but in all the excitement I just forgot. Talk to you soon, —Sally'.

The screenshot shows an email client window with a toolbar at the top containing icons for Send, Save, Spelling, Address, Print, Mail, and Attach. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with 'Favorites', 'History', and 'Search'. The email header shows 'To: Kathleen Burrows <katbur@nets.com>', 'Fr: Monica Robinson <mrobinson@mail.com>', and 'Subject: Sally'. The body of the email reads: 'Hi Kathleen, Sally just sent me an e-mail explaining why she didn't meet us at the party last night. She said that she had to tell me this story about what happened to her yesterday and that I Example never believe it. Get this—she ran into ^{16.} Steve in the morning and he said he ^{17.} be able to get tickets to the sold-out Coldplay show. Turns out, he was able to get them. She sounded really excited. That's not all—she said she thought their seats ^{18.} be terrible and that I ^{19.} not be able to believe it, but they were actually front row center. She said she knows she ^{20.} have called but with all the excitement she just forgot. Can you believe her luck? —Monica'.

Read the magazine article. Then read it again and check true or false.

Urban Legends of Today

Urban legends are questionable or strange stories that are widely accepted as true. They are usually somewhat believable because they relate to normal day-to-day activities, but they are also usually surprising or even scary. Urban legends now spread faster and wider than ever before because of the Internet.

One well-known, but unproved, urban legend is about so-called "perfume bandits."



According to the legend, criminals approach people and pretend to be selling perfume. When victims come close to see or smell the perfume, the bandits

spray something in their faces, knocking them out for a period of time during which the bandits rob them.

It is believed that this legend began in 1999 when a woman in the U.S. state of Alabama, filed a police report in which she claimed to have been approached by a woman selling perfume. The next thing she said she

remembered was having something sprayed in her face and then later waking up in a parking lot without her purse. However, since perfume does not leave physical evidence, the police were unable to confirm the facts or catch the robbers. The police finally closed the case and stamped the file "unsolvable." However, similar stories have been reported by others, and a large number of people still believe that the perfume bandits actually exist.

Another urban legend is that of the "haiku error messages." According to this legend, programmers working for a software company in Japan replaced standard computer error messages with haikus—traditional 3-line, Japanese poems. For example, when a document could not be found the following "haiku" would appear on the screen:

Having been erased,
The document you're seeking
Must now be retyped.

These haiku error messages turned out to be a joke created by American "hackers" (people who play computer tricks on others). However, the legend grew that there actually were some Japanese "poet-programmers" and many people believed it. The hackers must have been amused.

	true	false
Example: Urban legends are usually somewhat believable.	☒	☐
21. Urban legends can be frightening.	☐	☐
22. Today, urban legends spread less quickly than they did in the past.	☐	☐
23. The police were unable to prove whether or not the perfume bandits actually existed.	☐	☐
24. It is now known the legend of the perfume bandits was a hoax.	☐	☐
25. The people who wrote the haikus were Japanese.	☐	☐
26. The hackers were probably pleased with their joke.	☐	☐

Circle the letter of the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

Example: "The Incas didn't have any sophisticated machines or use any work animals. Their temples _____ been built solely through manual labor."

- a. must not have **b. must have** c. may have

27. "My keys aren't on the table where I always leave them. They _____ been taken by my husband."

- a. may have b. had c. had not

28. "Dinosaurs didn't necessarily die off gradually from climate change; they _____ been killed off quickly by some sudden event."

- a. could have b. couldn't have c. had

29. "I don't believe in any of the other theories. There is no doubt: Stonehenge _____ been built by the ancient Britons."

- a. might have b. might not have c. had to have

30. "Some of the visitors brought only long pants and sweaters; they _____ been told that that it's so hot and humid here."

- a. must have b. must not have c. could have

Choose one of the mysteries from the box or think of something mysterious that has happened in your own life. Write a paragraph of at least four to five sentences.

The Loch Ness Monster	Bigfoot
The Bermuda Triangle	Atlantis
The Stone Balls of Costa Rica	The Nazca Lines
The Explosion in Tunguska	Stonehenge

31-33. _____

