

Super English



Unit 18 - Lesson 1 - Unsolved Mysteries

Vocabulary



Mysteries - Vocabulary

decipher: (v) to discover the meaning of something written badly or in a difficult or hidden way



The archaeologist worked tirelessly to **decipher** the ancient script on the cave walls.

Mysteries - Vocabulary

intrigued: (adj) very interested by something, especially something strange, unusual, or mysterious



People are often **intrigued** by ancient artifacts.

Mysteries - Vocabulary



speculate: (v) to think about something and make guesses about it



Without solid evidence, we can only **speculate** about what happened.

Mysteries - Vocabulary

enigma: (n) a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand



The ancient ruins present an **enigma** that archaeologists have yet to solve.

Let's Read!



The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery



The Voynich Manuscript is one of the most mysterious books in the world. Discovered over a century ago, this ancient manuscript has puzzled scientists, linguists, and cryptographers ever since. Let's dive into its fascinating story and explore why it remains an **enigma**.

The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery



The Discovery

In 1912, an antique book dealer named Wilfrid Voynich purchased a collection of old manuscripts from a Jesuit college in Italy. Among them was a strange, handwritten book filled with unknown symbols and bizarre illustrations. Voynich was **intrigued** and decided to investigate. Despite his best efforts, he couldn't decode the manuscript, and it became known as the Voynich Manuscript.

The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery

A Puzzling Mystery

What makes the Voynich Manuscript so mysterious? First, its text is written in an unknown script that no one has been able to **decipher**. The book is filled with over 200 pages of text and drawings. The illustrations include strange plants that don't resemble any known species, zodiac signs, and diagrams of what appear to be stars or planets. There are also pictures of naked women bathing in interconnected tubes and pools, adding to the mystery.



The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery

Many theories have emerged over the years about the manuscript's origins and purpose. Here are a few of the most popular ones:

1. **A Secret Code:** Some researchers believe the manuscript is written in a secret code. If this is true, it could be a complex cipher that has yet to be cracked. Despite numerous attempts by professional cryptographers and amateur codebreakers, no one has succeeded in decoding it.



The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery



2. An Elaborate Hoax:

Another theory is that the manuscript is an elaborate hoax. Some think it was created to fool people into thinking it held important secrets. However, the complexity of the script and the consistency of the illustrations make this theory less likely.

The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery

3. A Lost Language:

Some experts believe the manuscript might be written in a lost language. If the language disappeared from history, it would explain why no one can read it today. This theory suggests the manuscript could be a valuable relic from a forgotten culture.



The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery



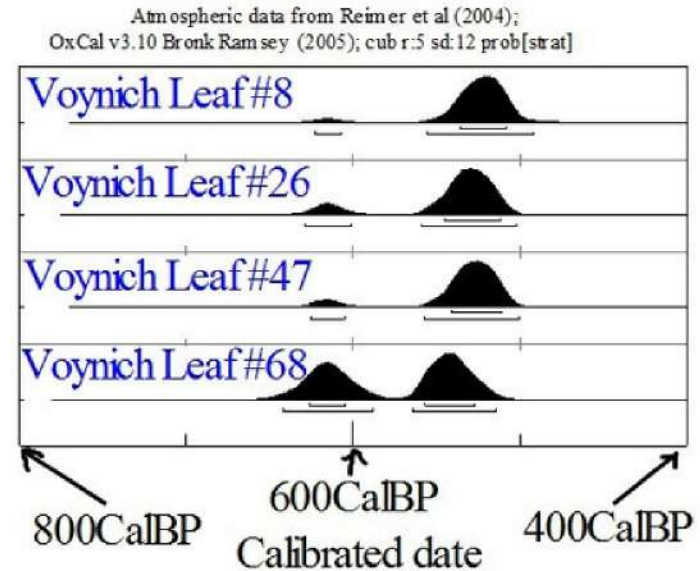
4. A Medieval Medical Text: Some scholars think the manuscript could be a medieval medical text. The illustrations of plants and bathing women might relate to herbal medicine and health practices from that time. However, without being able to read the text, this theory remains speculative.

The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery

4. Extraterrestrial Origins: The most imaginative theory is that the manuscript has extraterrestrial origins. Some people believe the unusual script and drawings might be the work of aliens. While there's no evidence to support this idea, it adds an extra layer of intrigue.



The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery



The Manuscript's Age - Thanks to carbon dating, we know that the Voynich Manuscript was created in the early 15th century, around 1404-1438. This dating aligns with the manuscript's medieval style and materials, adding credibility to its authenticity.

The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery

Despite modern technology and advanced research methods, the Voynich Manuscript remains unsolved. Scientists have used computer algorithms to analyze the text, but they still haven't cracked the code. Linguists have compared the script to every known language, but none match. The manuscript is now housed at Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, where it continues to fascinate and baffle researchers.

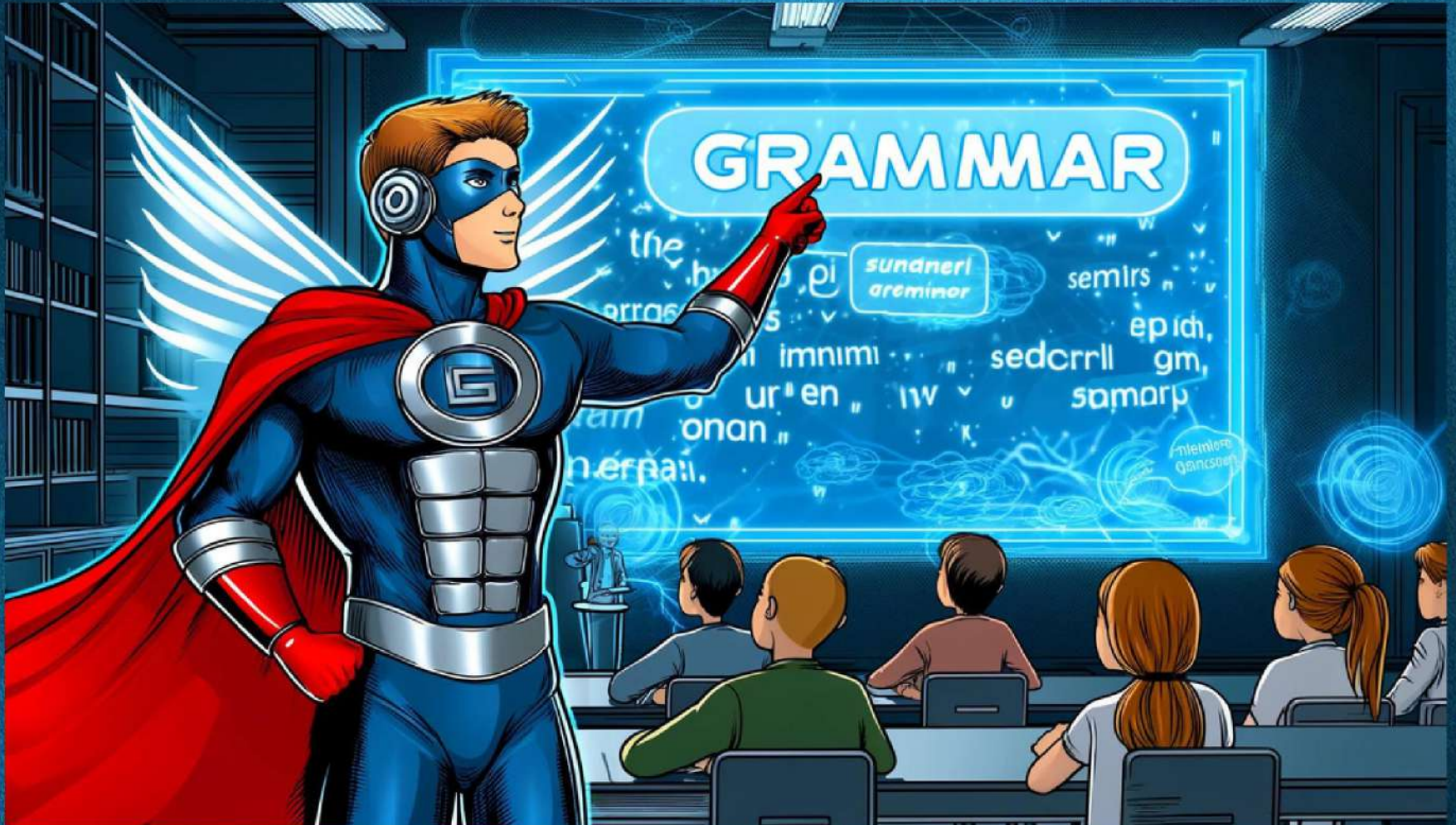


The Voynich Manuscript: An Unsolved Mystery

The Voynich Manuscript captivates people because it represents the unknown. In a world where we can often find answers with a quick internet search, the manuscript is a reminder that some mysteries still exist. It challenges our understanding and sparks our imagination. Whether it's a coded message, a hoax, or a relic from another world, the Voynich Manuscript remains one of history's greatest puzzles.



Grammar





Phrasal verbs with 'fall.'

Match the multiword verbs with their meanings.

To not happen as planned.

fall behind

To not keep up with others.

fall for

To break into pieces; To become very emotional or upset.

fall through

To start loving someone; To be tricked or deceived.

fall apart

Let's Talk!



Dialogue - Wellness



Max: Ellie, have you heard about Mrs. Peterson's cat, Whiskers? She's been missing since Tuesday.

Ellie: Yeah, I saw the posters. But did you notice something odd about where she was last seen?

Max: You mean near the old mill? Yeah, it's been closed for years. Why would Whiskers go there?

Ellie: Exactly my thought. I have a theory. Maybe Whiskers found a way inside. Cats love exploring, right?

Max: True. Do you think we should check it out? Maybe there are clues inside the mill.

Ellie: Definitely. Let's take some flashlights. It'll be dark and creepy, but we might find something everyone else missed.

Dialogue - Wellness



Max: What about tracks? It's dusty, so it would leave tracks.

Ellie: Good point. Let's look for paw prints.

Max: And let's ask around. See if anyone might know anything.

Ellie: I'll check in with Mr. Jacobs. He walks his dog there every morning.

Max: Smart. While you do that, I'll scout the area for any other clues.

Ellie: Sounds like a plan. Let's meet back here in two hours.

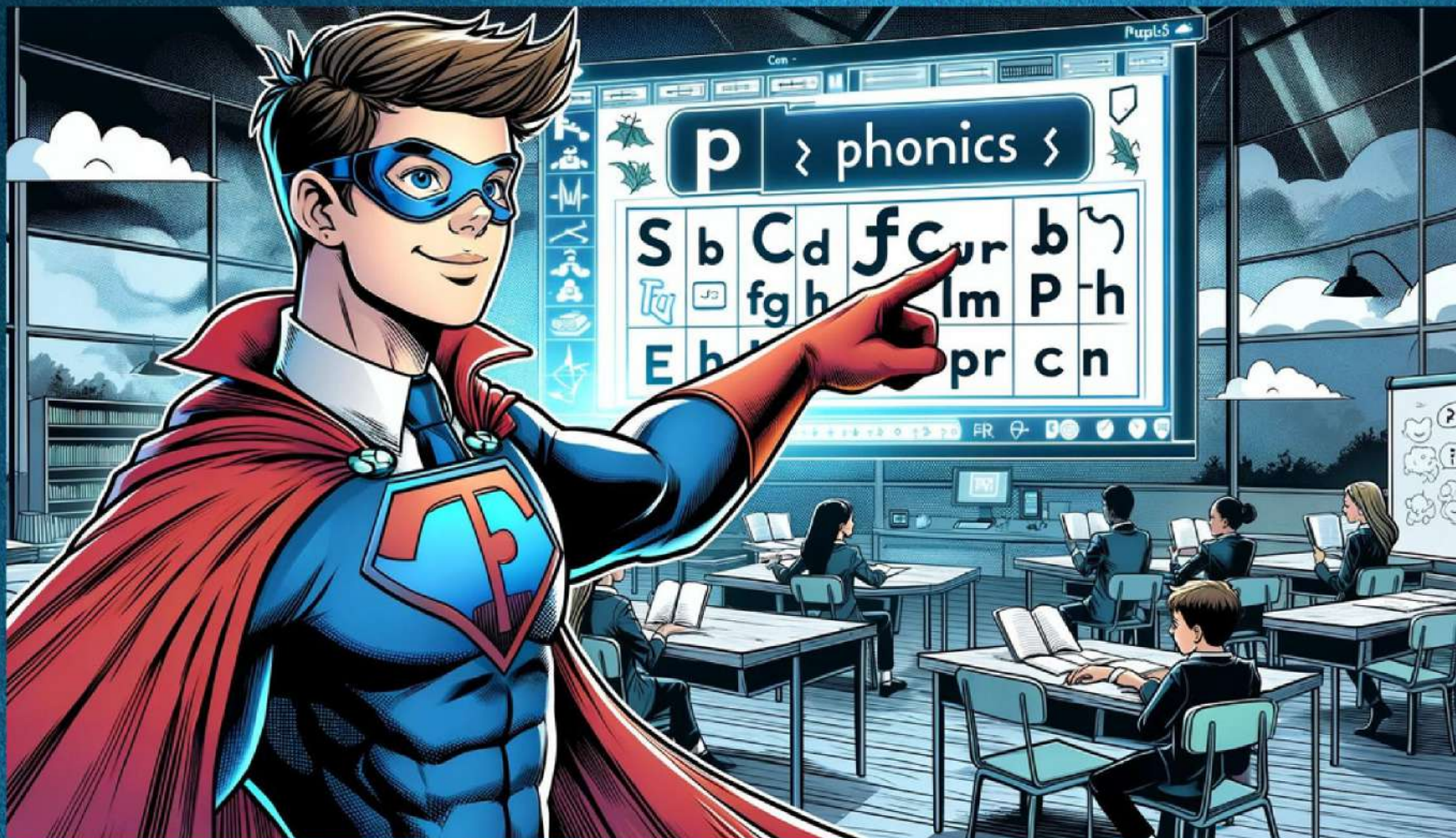
Max: Got it. This could be a big break in the case, Ellie.

Ellie: I hope so. Let's crack this case and bring Whiskers home.

Max: Agreed. See you soon, partner.

Ellie: See you, Max.

Words!



p > phonics <									
S	b	C	d	f	c	r	b	h	
Tu	J	fg	h		lm	P	h		
E	h				pr	c	n		



Metaphors

A metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares two different things by saying one thing is another, highlighting their similarities without using "like" or "as."

Time is a thief: Time takes away moments from our lives.

He has a heart of stone: He is very unfeeling or cold.

The world is a stage: Life is like a play where everyone acts out roles.

Her voice is music to my ears: Her voice is very pleasant to hear.

Life is a rollercoaster: Life has many ups and downs.

The classroom was a zoo: The classroom was very noisy and chaotic.

His mind is a computer: He thinks very quickly and accurately.

The stars are diamonds in the sky: Stars are bright and beautiful.

Her eyes were fireflies: Her eyes were shining brightly.

He is a shining star: He is very talented and stands out.

Super English

See you
Next time!

