

Reading

We often hear people say, 'It's a small world, isn't it?' It's usually when they've just experienced one of those strange coincidences that seem to happen in nearly everyone's lives. You know the kind of thing: you're on holiday in another country and you run into a person you know from home, even though neither of you knew that the other was going there too.

People often think experiences like **this** are evidence of something mysterious happening, some kind of hidden plan outside our knowledge. The scientific explanation is less exciting, and perhaps that's why some people are reluctant to accept it. Coincidences are events that unexpectedly happen at the same time for no clear reason, or finding an unexpected connection between seemingly random things or people. A very common example of **the latter** is talking to a complete stranger and finding that you have the same birthday. What are the chances of **that** happening?

Actually, **the chances** are better than you might think, and there's a mathematical way to prove **it**. It has been calculated that the number of people you need to have a 50% chance of two of them sharing a birthday is 23. And when there are 48 people in a room, the probability goes up to 95%. To put it another way, if there are only 50 people reading these words (and I hope there are more!), one of them will almost certainly have the same birthday as me.

The other part of the scientific explanation for coincidences is simply that there are so many events in people's lives. Just think of the number of people that you have had any kind of connection with during your life. There are probably over 10,000, and the older you get, the more there will be. If you are the kind of person who talks to strangers, you will definitely come across coincidences. Basically, when you think about how complex our lives are, especially nowadays with the Internet, the only surprising thing is that coincidences don't happen more often.

1. Answer the following questions.

- What is meant by coincidences ?

- What is the reason for people's reluctance of the scientific explanation?

2. Complete the following:

- _____ people are needed to get fifty percent chance of finding two people sharing the same birthday.

3. Decide whether each of these sentences are True or False

- People often think that coincidences prove that what happens outside our knowledge is not random. ()
- The kind of people who talk to strangers are likely to come across fewer coincidences than others. ()
- The writer's conclusion about coincidences is that they are not really surprising at all. ()

4. What do these words or phrases refer to

- **the latter** .. (line:9) _____
- **the chances** (line:11) _____

5. Find words that almost have the same meaning as:

- a. opportunities _____
- b. difficult to explain or understand _____
- c. possibility _____
- d. not wanting _____

6. Find the opposite of the following.

- a. the former _____
- b. rare _____

1- Vocabulary

1. Circle the correct answer.

1. The children sometimes _____ their toys and ends up losing them . (**mislead- misuse**)
2. He flew the plane without a _____. (**co-worker – co-pilot**)
3. He threw away my pencil _____ (**on show- on purpose**)
4. There is now _____ (**point - way**) trying to repair it.

Verb	Particle	Phrasal verb
turn	across	
come	about	
throw	out	
worry	away	

convinced – show- polls

1. Heba hasn't prepared well for the exam. I am not really _____ she will pass.
2. Young children are _____ to swim at the beginning

2- Language

A: Complete the sentences with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets.

- 1- Look there! The robbers _____ (run) away.
- 2- Hey, turn the radio down, I _____ (try) to concentrate.
- 3- It _____ (look) as if it's going to rain.
- 4- John and Jack _____ (meet) yearly.
- 5- "What are you doing next Monday?" "I _____ (fly) to Amman, I have my ticket."
- 6- I _____ you back yesterday because I _____ my mobile phone (not call / lose)
- 7- When I got home, my brother _____ a film that I _____ three times. (watch / see)
- 8- I _____ (clean) the house when she called.
- 9- When we arrived at the office we found that someone ____ (break in) during the night.

B: Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb between brackets. (to-infinitive or -ing)

- I feel like _____ to some music now. (to listen / listening)
- He told me _____ him as soon as I arrive. (to call / calling)
- Please remember _____ (bring) the camera with you tomorrow .
- The driver stopped many times _____ about the way to the museum. (ask)
- Would you mind _____ (go) with me to the bookshop.