

11 PARAPSYCHOLOGY

11.1 Vocabulary

linking ideas

- A** Look at the diagram on the opposite page.
- 1 Complete the blank fields in the diagram.
 - 2 Give more examples in each category.
 - 3 Discuss which research methods would be suitable for each approach.

- B** Study the linking words and phrases in box a.
- 1 Put them into two groups for:
 - a discussing reasons and results
 - b building an argument
 - 2 Is each linking word used to join ideas:
 - a within a sentence?
 - b between sentences?
 - 3 Can you think of similar linking words?
 - 4 Put the linking words in question 1b in a suitable order to list points in support of an argument.

- C** Study the words in box b.
- 1 Sort the words into two groups according to whether they are concerned with *research* or with the *paranormal*, or both.
 - 2 In pairs, explain your decisions.
 - 3 Are the words nouns, verbs or adjectives? What is their stress pattern?
 - 4 What other words or phrases have the same meaning?

- D** Read the text on the right.
- 1 Complete each space with a word or phrase from box a or b. Change the form if necessary.
 - 2 Can you think of other words or phrases with the same meaning as the blue words?
 - 3 Find all the words and phrases in the text connected with *parapsychology* or *scientific research*.
 - 4 Match the phrases below with a later phrase that refers back to them.

Example:

science and psychology – *these*

science and psychology *aspects of the mind*
mesmerism *anomalous events* *paranormal*

a another point is as a result, because
finally firstly for example
in addition moreover one result of this is
secondly since so

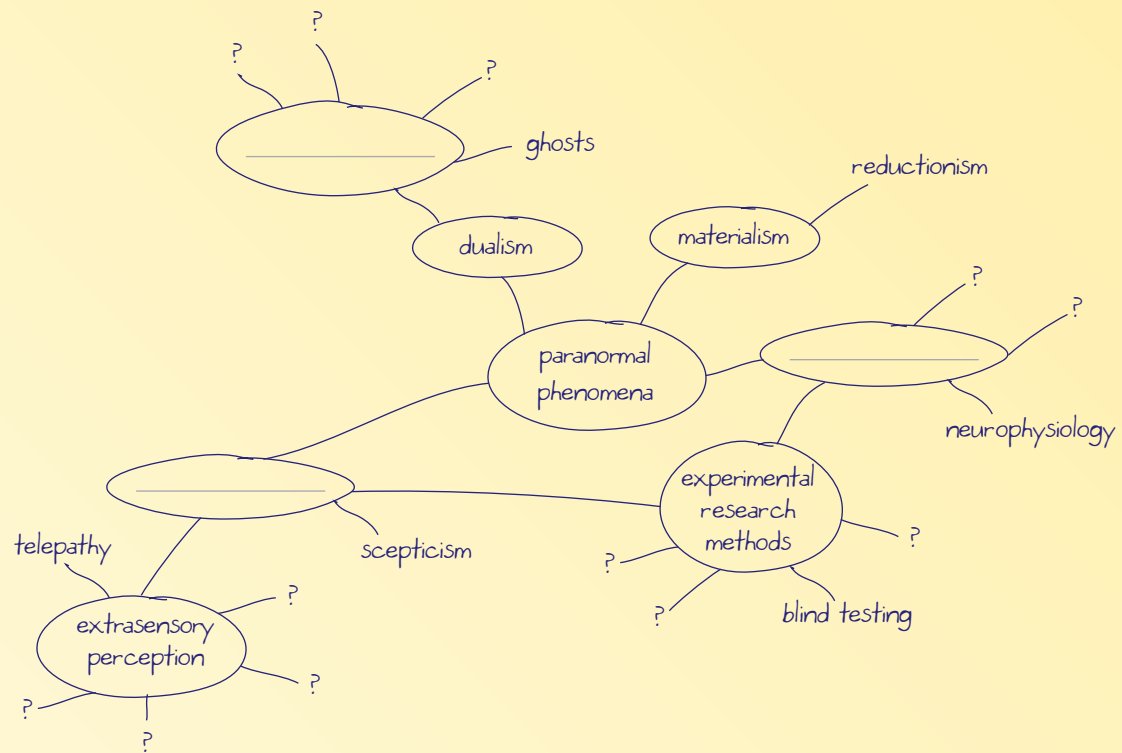
b anomalous blind testing consciousness
hypnosis investigators mainstream
meticulous out-of-body parapsychology
perception phenomena prove repeatability

According to Caroline Watt (2005), an **eminent** specialist, _____ has made a **significant** contribution to _____ science and psychology. Firstly, parapsychology has focused attention on aspects of the mind that have subsequently become the subject of conventional scientific research, such as _____, _____ and memory. _____ that the **boundaries** of psychology have been **consistently** expanded. For example, early experiments into *mesmerism*, now better known as _____, were carried out by psychical researchers. Nowadays, hypnosis is a **recognized** phenomenon. Watt **mentions**, moreover, that recent parapsychological research into **anomalous** events like _____ experiences has **led to** greater understanding of conventional psychology. _____, since paranormal _____ are **notoriously** difficult to _____, _____ have developed **meticulous** methods of research into mental processes. _____, mainstream psychology has been able to widen its range of experimental procedures. One example of this is the popularization of _____, to reduce **bias** in early experiments on psychic ability. However, issues related to _____ and methods of data analysis continue to **challenge** professionals in both parapsychology and mainstream psychology.

Source: Watt, C. (2005). Parapsychology's contribution to psychology: a view from the front line. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 69, 215–232.

- E** Do the quiz on the opposite page.

The paranormal: approaches and challenges







HADFORD University

General knowledge quiz

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. What do these letters stand for? | 2. Who or what are these? |
| a ESP | a ganzfeld |
| b PP | b sixth sense |
| c REG | c a seance |
| d EE | d a medium |
| e RV | e the supernatural |
| f OBE | f <i>Ghostbusters</i> |
| g PK | g déjà vu |

11.2 Listening

recognizing the speaker's point of view • making notes • writing up notes

- A** You are going to listen to a lecture by a guest speaker in the Psychology faculty at Hadford University. Look at the poster on the right.
- 1 What is the lecture going to be about?
 - 2 Decide on how you are going to make notes. Prepare a page in your notebook.
- B**  Listen to Part 1 of the lecture and make notes.
- 1 What is the focus of the lecturer's talk?
 - 2 What are the four main views that the lecturer will discuss?
 - 3 What examples of these views does she give?
- C**  Listen to Part 2 of the lecture and make notes.
- D** Using your notes, answer the questions on the handout on the right.
- E** Refer to the model Cornell notes on page 107.
- 1 Check your answers with the model.
 - 2 Complete the *Review* and *Summary* sections of the Cornell notes.
- F**  The lecturer talks about déjà vu. Listen again to part of the lecture. Which words tell us whether the information is fact or opinion?
- G**  Study the phrases in the blue box. Which type of information below follows each phrase in the blue box? Listen to some sentences from the lecture.
- restatement
 - definite point
 - summary of a source
 - example
 - statement of a topic
 - another point
 - tentative point
 - clarification
 - purpose for speaking
- H** Write out one section of your notes in complete sentences.
See Skills bank



Visiting Speaker: Dr Elizabeth MacDonald
15th February 5:00 p.m.

'The paranormal: approaches and challenges.'

Dr MacDonald will explore approaches to the paranormal and discuss issues related to parapsychology and scientific method.


- 1 What view did the lecturer discuss first?
- 2 What examples of this perspective did the lecturer mention?
- 3 When did research into parapsychology begin?
- 4 Name three forms of ESP.
- 5 In the Rhines' experiments, what did:
 - a the sender do?
 - b the receiver do?
- 6 How is the free response method different from the Rhines' experiment?
- 7 What is the purpose of a random event generator?
- 8 What type of experience motivated Susan Blackmore to study parapsychology?
- 9 Name three mainstream sciences that can often explain paranormal events.
- 10 According to the speaker, what two phenomena can be explained by science?

- 1 that is to say
- 2 Don't misunderstand me.
- 3 not only that, but
- 4 ... it's fair to say that ...
- 5 to some degree
- 6 in an attempt to ...
- 7 with respect to ...
- 8 ... gave a good description of ... in ...
- 9 ... to the extent that ...,
- 10 A case in point is ...
- 11 ... which ... briefly defines as ...
- 12 (He) has no doubt that ...


11.3 Extending skills

stress in phrases • building an argument

A Study the phrases in box a.

- 1 Mark the stressed syllables in each phrase.
- 2  Listen and check your answers.
- 3 Which phrases have adjective + noun? Which word has the stronger stress in these phrases?


B Look at the topics below.

- moving things with your mind
 - healing yourself through concentration
 - curing people by thinking about them
- 1 What would you like to know about these topics?
 - 2 Prepare a page in your notebook to make some notes.
 - 3  Listen to the final part of the lecture (Part 3) and make notes. If there is information which you miss, leave a space.
 - 4 Compare your notes with someone else. Fill in any blank spaces.

C Answer the questions on the Hadford University handout, using your notes.**D** Study the stages of building an argument (a–f) in box b.

- 1 Put the stages in an appropriate order.
- 2 Match each stage (a–f) with a phrase from box c.

E Look at box b again.

- 1  Listen to a section from the lecture. Make notes on what the lecturer says for each stage of the argument (a–f).
- 2 Check your answers to Exercises D and E1.

F Use your notes to write 75–100 words about the main points in the final part of the lecture.**G** In groups, discuss the research task set by the lecturer. Talk about these questions:

- 1 What are the three mind-over-matter topics you need to consider?
- 2 Which one will you choose?
- 3 What ideas do you already have?
- 4 What kind of information will you need to find?
- 5 Where can you go to find more information?

Report back to the class on your discussion. In Lesson 11.4 you will take part in a seminar on this topic.

a

- mental powers
- mind over matter
- living systems
- physical health
- naked eye
- special apparatus
- distant healing
- random intervals
- sleight of hand



HADFORD University

- 1 What is the difference between macro-PK and micro-PK?
- 2 What does DMILS mean?
- 3 What is the function of the electrodes in a remote staring experiment?
- 4 What two mental activities are involved in meditation?
- 5 What seem to be the most serious methodological issues, according to the lecturer?
- 6 What is your research task?

b


- a giving a counter-argument
- b giving your opinion
- c stating the issue
- d supporting the reason with evidence
- e rejecting a counter-argument
- f giving a reason for your opinion

c

It's quite clear that ...
 The question is ...
 The research has concluded that ...
 I'm afraid that just isn't true.
 Some people claim ...
 The evidence lies in the fact that ...

11.4 Extending skills

stress in phrases • making effective contributions to a seminar

- A** Study the terms in box a.
- 1 Explain the meaning of the terms.
 - 2 Mark the main stress in each term.
- B** Study the words in box b. Match the words in columns 1 and 2 to make phrases.
- C** Study the FocusOnMatter web page on the opposite page.
- 1 What types of psychokinesis are shown in the pictures?
 - 2 Which categories of mind over matter on the web page are best known to the general public? Why do you think this is?
- D** Study the phrases in box c.
- 1 What purpose would you use these phrases for in a seminar?
 - 2 Which phrases can you use for linking your new point to a contribution by another speaker?
- E**  Listen to some students taking part in a seminar. They have been asked to discuss psychokinesis, DMILS and distant healing. While you listen, make a note of:
- 1 the main topic of each extract
 - 2 further details of each topic
- F** Study the Distant Healing and Biofeedback web page and discuss these questions.
- 1 What is the main message from this page?
 - 2 Look at the 'types of healing by PK' list.
 - a How can biofeedback be studied?
 - b Which categories of healing do you think are most difficult to investigate and why?
 - c Which research projects could apply to all types of healing by PK?
 - d Look at the whole FocusOnMatter website again. How can the general public participate in research through this website?
- G** Discuss your research findings on psychokinesis, DMIL or distant healing with your group. One person from the group should report the conclusions of the discussion to the class.

a

clear-cut proof
 double blind methods
 energy field treatment
 experimenter participant
 interaction
 high-speed photography
 radio micro-transmitters
 remote staring experiment

b	1	2
	anecdotal	blind
	blood	effect
	double	evidence
	energy	field
	experimenter	pressure
	healthy	participants
	immune	Reiki
	skin	system
	touch	temperature

c

I'd like to start by explaining ...

To carry on from this first point, I want secondly to look at ...

I don't think that is the main reason.

That seems like a very good point X is making.

I'm going to expand the topic by mentioning ...

On the other hand, you might want to say that ...

As well as this issue, we can also look at a very different issue.

So to sum up, we can say that ...

Does anybody have any opinions or anything they would like to add?

I think we need a different viewpoint.

OK, to continue then ...

Following on from what X has said ...

A

FOCUSONMATTER.ORG

the organization that investigates the power of the mind over the body

Look here for the latest research and information on:

Psychokinesis (PK)

- [Teleportation](#)
- [Telekinesis](#)
- [Direct Mental Interaction with Living Systems](#)
- [Levitation](#)
- [PK in the News](#)
- [Research Projects](#)
- [Start Your Own PK Research Group](#)

Meditation

- [Join our online meditation group](#)
- [Get advice on meditation techniques](#)
- [Read about the latest research on mediation](#)









Join our blog and share your paranormal experiences.

Distant Healing and Biofeedback

- [What is distant healing?](#)
- [What is biofeedback?](#)
- [Journal articles](#)
- [Research funding](#)
- [Join our distant healing project](#)

B

Distant Healing and Biofeedback

FocusOnMatter's distant healing and biofeedback project aims to research as many reports of healing as possible.

There are many claims that distant healing and biofeedback have been responsible for curing people of physical and psychological illnesses.

We want to test distant healing and biofeedback scientifically.

Types of healing by PK

- 1 **Biofeedback**
- 2 **Energy field treatment**
- 3 **Prayer**
- 4 **Psychic healing**
- 5 **Therapeutic touch**

Research projects

- 1 [Faith healing](#)
- 2 [Reiki](#)
- 3 [Biofeedback](#)
- 4 [Suggestibility](#)
- 5 [Coincidence](#)

Linking words

We use linking words and phrases to join ideas together in a sequence, to show how the ideas are related.

Some linking words can be used to join independent and dependent clauses in a sentence.

Examples:

Because paranormal phenomena are notoriously difficult to prove, over the years, investigators in this field have developed meticulous research methods.

OR

*Over the years, investigators in this field have developed meticulous research methods **because** paranormal phenomena are notoriously difficult to prove.*

Other linking words join sentences in a text.

Example:

*Research in parapsychology has discovered that hypnosis is a psychological phenomenon. **As a result**, mainstream psychology has been able to expand its areas of investigation.*

When building an argument, it is a good idea to use linking words to add points.

Examples:

*Firstly, ... Another point is ... In addition, whereas ...
For example, ... Secondly, ... Moreover, ... Finally, ...*

Using words with similar meanings to refer back in a text

It is a good idea to learn several words with similar or related meanings. We often build cohesion in a text by using different words to refer back to something previously mentioned.

Examples:

First mention	Second mention	Third mention	Fourth mention
<i>mainstream science and psychology</i>	<i>conventional scientific research</i>	<i>conventional psychology</i>	<i>mainstream psychology</i>
<i>aspects of the mind</i>	<i>consciousness, perception and memory</i>	<i>mental phenomena</i>	<i>mental processes</i>
<i>scientific research</i>	<i>research methods</i>	<i>experimental procedures</i>	<i>experiments</i>

Recognizing fixed phrases from academic English (4)

In Units 7, 9 and 10, we learnt some key fixed phrases from general academic English. Here are some more to use when speaking.

*Don't misunderstand me.
I'm afraid that just isn't true.
in an attempt to ...
... is a case in point
not only that, but ...
Some people say ...
the effect of ...*

*the history of ...
the presence of ...
there is a correlation between ... and ...
to some degree ...
to the extent that ...
What's more ...
with respect to ...*

Skills bank

Writing out notes in full

When making notes we use as few words as possible. This means that when we come to write up the notes, we need to pay attention to:

- the use of numbers and symbols for words and ideas, e.g.,
Notes: spiritualists = supernatural exists, e.g., ghosts + spirits
*Spiritualists **believe that the supernatural exists, as proved by the appearance of ghosts and spirits ...***
- making sure the grammatical words are put back in, e.g.,
Notes: → phenomena with no scientific explanation
These are phenomena which have no scientific explanation.
- making the implied meanings clear, e.g.,
Notes: dualism (mind and body separate) v. materialism (only physical is real)
*Dualism is **the belief that the mind and body are separate, in contrast with materialism, which maintains that only the physical world is real.***

Building an argument

A common way to build an argument is:

- 1 First, state the issue:
The question is how reliable is the evidence?
- 2 Next, give a counter-argument:
It's quite clear that anecdotal evidence of PK is not sufficient to prove its existence.
- 3 Then give your opinion:
So, although some people claim that they have seen objects move as a result of PK, I'm afraid this just can't be true.
- 4 Then give evidence for your opinion:
The evidence lies in the fact that very few, if any, successful demonstrations have taken place under controlled conditions to eliminate the possibility of fraud or sleight of hand.

Linking to a previous point

When you want to move the discussion in a new direction, introduce your comments with phrases such as:

Following on from what X said, I'd like to talk about ...

I'm going to expand the topic by mentioning ...

As well as (distant healing), we can also look at a very different sort of issue.

Summarizing a source

When we talk about the ideas of other people in a lecture or a seminar, we often give a summary of the source in a sentence or two.

Examples:

A book by (name of writer) called (name of book) published in (year) gives an explanation of how ...

Briefly, (name of writer) explains how ...

An introduction to (topic) can be found in (name of writer).