

## Are You Psychic?

A "Controversial Lesson" by John Harrop

[www.TeachingHouse.com](http://www.TeachingHouse.com)

### Test: "Are you psychic?"

Have you ever had the feeling that someone was going to text or call you before you got the message? Or known that someone was going to do something before they did it? If so, then it's possible that you have some psychic ability. Take the following test to see if you do!

1. Do you ever have the sense of déjà-vu? (the creepy feeling that you've experienced something before? Y/N
2. Do you ever get the feeling that you know what's going to happen next? Y/N
3. When you meet a person for the first time, do you get a sense that you can trust this person? Y/N
4. Do you have vivid dreams? Y/N
5. Do your dreams ever come true? Y/N
6. If you play card games, do you ever win due to feeling which card you should play? Y/N
7. Do your text messages to friends cross in hyperspace? (When you send a message to a friend, does your friend send one at exactly the same time?) Y/N

*How many times did you answer 'Yes'? Unfold the paper to find out if you're psychic!*

-----fold-----fold-----fold-----fold-----

#### Results:

**More than 6:** You're definitely a psychic! You can see into the future using your amazing ability to pick up on things with your sixth sense!

**3-6:** You're aware of your pre-cognitive abilities. You possibly have some idea of what will happen in the future.

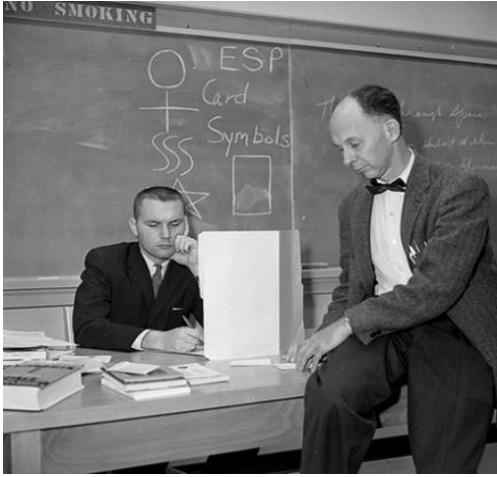
**1-2:** You're as psychic as a sea slug!

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## Reading: The Stargate Project



It's 1975. Jenny Blake is sitting in a small windowless room in CIA headquarters in Langley. She's holding a simple drawing pad and a pencil. More than 2000 miles away, in a secret airbase in the Nevada desert, Major Guy Bradwell is putting a drawing into an envelope. They are conducting an experiment which is part of a top-secret US military program.

Jenny closes her eyes and concentrates. In her mind's eye, the clouds clear and she pictures herself in an aircraft hanger. At first blurred shapes appear, and then harder lines and black triangles come into focus. After a few minutes she sketches what she can see. It's a simple image, but still unmistakable - the iconic Lockheed Nighthawk (the first of

the stealth fighter planes, kept secret until 1988) - exactly the same as the one in the drawing in the Major's envelope all those miles away.

Unbelievably, this is not the plot of a spy film but the real-life events known as the [1] Stargate Project. This was the code name of one of several top-secret projects set up by the US government to study the military use of psychic phenomena in spying. The experiment described above is known as 'remote viewing' [2]: the ability to sense unknown information about places and events, to 'see' an object thousands of miles away. Incredible as it may sound, the US government spent an amazing \$20,000,000 on research and development before finally abandoning the project in 1995, as it wasn't providing enough information. However, conspiracy theorists say that it's still being used in secret.

And it's not only the army who have shown an interest in psychic phenomena. You might think TV programmes like *The Mentalist* are pure fiction, but in fact police forces in both the US and the UK also have a history of working with psychics. Unsurprisingly, the authorities have been reluctant to give out much information, so it's impossible to know just how often this happens. We do know that in 2009 a police force in Wales was criticized for spending the equivalent of \$33,000 investigating a case [3] based on information given to them by a medium (a person thought to have the power to communicate with the spirits of the dead).

So what will happen in the future? Will we see more collaboration between police and mediums? Only time will tell ... or perhaps we should ask a psychic!

### GLOSSARY:

aircraft hanger = a large 'garage' for planes

stealth fighter = a type of war-plane

abandoning = to stop doing something, usually before it's finished

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stargate\\_Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stargate_Project)

[2] <http://www.firedocs.com/remoterviewing/answers/crvmanual/>

[3] [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/8369369.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8369369.stm)

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## Student Worksheet

### Gist-reading task

Read through the text quickly, and answer this question:

According to the article, who has used psychics?

**Now read the text again and decide if these sentences are True or False, according to the writer.**

1. Jenny had already seen the Major's picture T/F
2. Jenny imagined an image of a secret plane T/F
3. The Stargate Project was an idea for a film T/F
4. The American government are still spending money on the project. T/F
5. The police publicize details of their use of psychics. T/F

### Vocabulary

Find words in the text that mean:

(1<sup>st</sup> paragraph)

1. a thing you put a letter inside =
2. place where military aircraft take off and land =

(2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

3. unclear =
4. draws quickly =

(3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)

5. storyline/summary of a film =
6. incredible =

(4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

7. something that is invented/imagined and is not true =
8. the police =

### Speaking

Work with a partner or in small groups.

**Compare your answers from the psychic test.**

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### Teacher's Notes 1

These notes are only a guide. You're welcome to adapt the text or activities for your class needs.

#### Recommended Level

Intermediate +

#### Warm-up Options

**Option 1:** Ask your class if they can remember a time when they were thinking of a person and that person phoned/emailed/texted/WhatsApped them. Or if they'd been doing something and they felt like they'd already done it before, perhaps in a dream. Ask them if they thought it was a coincidence or if they think it's because we have some innate psychic ability. Ask for a show of hands. You'll find that some people feel very passionately about these things, so the best thing for you is to sit on the fence so that you don't upset anybody!

**Option 2:** Tell the class you're going to conduct an experiment on psychic ability. First you will need to print out 25 Zenner cards (as pictured below). Then draw the 5 shapes on the board and explain that these shapes are used because they are easy to communicate telepathically. The classroom should be as quiet as possible. Get students to write the numbers 1-25 in their books, then shuffle your set of cards. Make the situation as 'serious' as possible. Pick up the first card and 'send' it to the class 'telepathically'. Students draw the symbol they felt you have 'sent'. Then show the class which card it was, and each person notes down whether it was a hit or a miss. At the end discuss the results. Anything more than 5 right out of 25 allegedly demonstrates some type of psychic ability.

OR

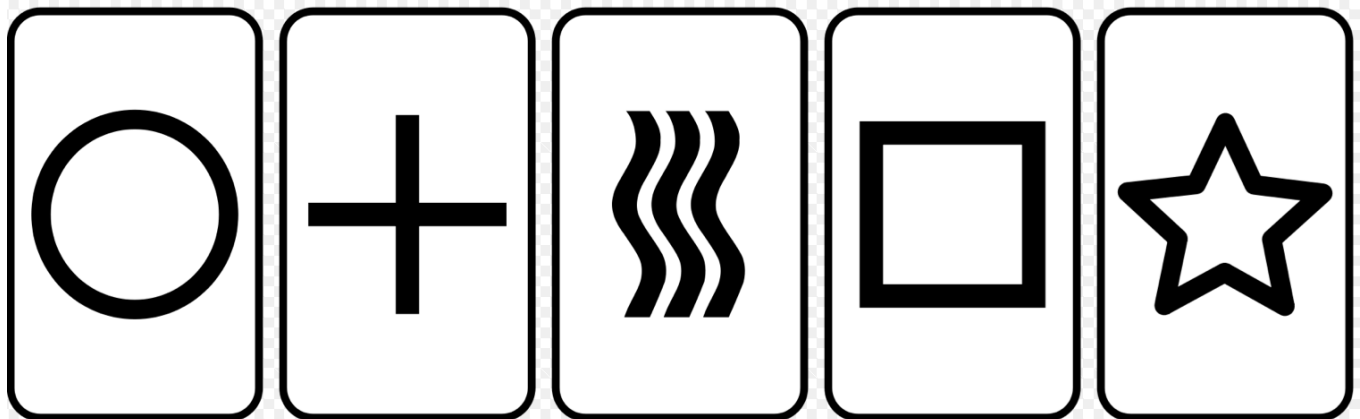
Students could work in pairs instead, if you print out enough cards.

OR

You could 'send'/'visualise' - cities, flowers, farm animals, a word from p36 of your coursebook etc. The possibilities are endless!

An online version is here: <http://www.psychicscience.org/esp3.aspx>

More info about Zenner Cards here: <http://www.skeptdic.com/zener.html>



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**Option 2:** Ask who watches the TV show 'The Mentalist', and how real they think it is. Then tell them they are going to do a reading about psychics. The class quickly brainstorms what they think the reading is about - either in small groups or in pairs.

## Extension activities

### Listening

Explain to the class that they are going to do a listening connected to the reading. Tell the students that the speakers have Scottish accents and it's difficult to understand every word.

Write on the board (or dictate) the following questions.

1. What does Gordon Smith do?
2. What do experts think of him?
3. How does Gordon make money?
3. How many brothers does he have? How many brothers does he have?
4. What strange things happened to him when he was younger?

### Answers:

1. He's a medium/He talks to the dead.
2. Yes, they say he's authentic.
3. He's a barber. He claims that he doesn't want to make money from being a medium/talking to the dead)
4. Six. He's the youngest of a family of 7 boys.
5. He heard voices of people who weren't there, he saw lights, he saw a dead friend of the family in the street, he had visions.

Listening link - The Psychic Barber (10-min BBC documentary)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=xmMWpBtRZZY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=xmMWpBtRZZY)

Here are links to online psychic tests:

<http://paranormal.about.com/od/onlineesptests/> 11 different tests here.

Can you identify these mystery objects and tell us what they are and who they belonged to?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/southampton/features/psychic/test.shtml>

<http://www.psychicguild.com/esptest/esptest.php>

<http://astraltest.com/extrasensory/clairvoyance.php?step=01> What's in the box?

<http://www.scientificpsychic.com/esp/esptest.html> Intuition test

Psychic trick

<http://www.barryandstuart.com/the-unbelievably-cool-fake-psychic-trick/>

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### Other links

[http://www.remoteviewed.com/remote\\_viewing\\_history\\_military.htm](http://www.remoteviewed.com/remote_viewing_history_military.htm) CIA documents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX2es7XGsuA> Interview with a US Intelligence Officer

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_TAq2rjGm9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TAq2rjGm9A) The psychic arms race (6 mins)

<http://weird-people.com/definitions-of-psychic-terms/> Definition of psychic terms