

## 2.2 Unbelievable?

GOALS ■ Sequence events ■ Talk about communication

### Grammar & Reading sequencing events

1a Work with a partner. Look at the photos and match them to the three short articles 1-3.

HOME / STORIES

# Hoaxes

SEARCH

- 1 Recently a picture has been circulating on the internet of a bright blue watermelon, described as a Japanese moon melon. It seems the fruit grows in Japan and eating it will change the taste of anything you eat afterwards, making sweet things taste sour, and so on. Each watermelon is supposed to cost about \$200, but no one is actually offering it for sale, because it doesn't exist.
- 2 On October 15, 2009, the media reported that a six-year-old boy was inside a large silver balloon floating high in the sky. When the balloon landed, the boy was nowhere to be found, leading to fears that he had fallen out. However, it was later discovered that the whole story had been made up by the boy's parents, in an attempt to get a reality TV deal.
- 3 In the early twentieth century, scientists were keen to find some evidence that would prove the link between early man and apes. In 1912, it seemed the evidence had been found in Piltdown, England, when Charles Dawson dug up a human skull with an ape-like jaw. For more than thirty years, everyone believed that this skull, known as 'Piltdown Man', was genuine; but in 1953 a team of researchers discovered that it was, in fact, a fake, made from an ancient human skull and a modern ape jaw.

■ **skull** the bones in the head of a human or animal  
■ **jaw** the two large bones in your skull that contain your teeth



b What do all three stories have in common?

2 Read the stories again. Which story ...?

- 1 is the oldest
- 2 is going round online
- 3 did people believe for the longest time
- 4 was a result of someone wanting to be famous

3 Work with a partner and discuss these questions.

- 1 Have you heard any of these stories before, or any similar ones?
- 2 Why do you think people carry out hoaxes like these?

4a 2.3 ))) Listen to a radio programme about hoaxes. Did they mention any of your reasons?

b Work with a partner. List three of the reasons for carrying out the hoaxes that are mentioned in the programme.

c 2.3 ))) Listen again and check your answers.

**5a** Complete the extracts about the first hoax mentioned in the radio programme, using the correct linking word or phrase from the box. Use each word or phrase only once.

as soon as by the time (that) during meanwhile  
until while

- 1 A couple, Richard and Mayumi Heene, let a large gas balloon float off into the air and then, \_\_\_\_\_ it was high in the sky, they claimed that their six-year-old son was inside the balloon.
- 2 The police were informed and helicopters were sent up to track the balloon \_\_\_\_\_ they could find a safe way of getting him down.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ the balloon landed an hour or so later, about 80 km away, the story was live on television.
- 4 When the boy was not found inside, the media reported that he had fallen out \_\_\_\_\_ the flight, and a huge search started. \_\_\_\_\_, the boy was actually safe at home, hiding. The parents suddenly announced that they had found him at home, asleep.
- 5 We can't say for sure because the couple never admitted it, but \_\_\_\_\_ reporters were interviewing the family on TV, the boy accidentally mentioned that they'd done it to be on TV. He was supposed to keep quiet about that.

**b** 2.4 ))) Compare your answers with a partner. Listen and check your answers.

**6** Read the sentences in exercise 5a again. Choose the correct option to complete the information in the Grammar focus box.

### GRAMMAR FOCUS time linkers

We use time linkers to describe how the timing of events in a story relates to one another.

- 1 *until / while* describes **when** something happened but not for how long
- 2 *as soon as / by the time (that)* describes an event that happens **immediately after** an event
- 3 *until / meanwhile* describes a contrasting event that happens **while** something else is happening
- 4 *by the time (that) / during* describes an action that happened **before** the main events
- 5 *during / as soon as* describes an action that happens at a point **within** this period of time
- 6 *during / until* describes an action that continued **up to a** point and then stops

→ Grammar Reference page 139

**7a** Read the story of the Piltdown Man and choose the best time linker options.

<sup>1</sup> **During / While** the early twentieth century, scientists were keen to find some evidence that would prove the link between early man and apes. In 1912 that evidence seemed to have been found <sup>2</sup> **meanwhile / while** Dawson and Woodward were digging on a site in Piltdown, in the south of England. <sup>3</sup> **As soon as / Until** they saw the jawbone and the skull, they decided that this must be the evidence science needed. Woodward claimed that both bones belonged to a human being who had lived about half a million years ago, <sup>4</sup> **by the time / during** what is known as the Lower Pleistocene period. Most scientists accepted this opinion <sup>5</sup> **until / while** nearly forty years later, when it was discovered that the Piltdown Man was a fake. <sup>6</sup> **By the time / Meanwhile**, Dawson, who most people consider responsible for making the fake, had died.

The Piltdown Man hoax truly damaged science because <sup>7</sup> **while / by the time** the hoax was discovered, scientists had wasted nearly forty years believing a lie.

**b** 2.5 ))) Listen and check your answers.

### Vocabulary & Speaking communication

**8a** Work with a partner. Look back at the extracts from the radio programme in exercise 5a and find the verbs which describe different ways of communicating or not.

**b** Now complete the news items with the most appropriate verbs from the box in the correct form.

announce claim interview mention tell

Police <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday that calls to the emergency 999 number had risen sharply in recent months. They <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the public to ignore a hoax story which <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that dialling 999 will charge your phone battery.

admit inform invent keep quiet report

The newspaper which recently <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that Beijing was showing digital sunrises on huge screens because air pollution was too bad for people to see the real thing has now <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that a journalist actually <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the story.

**9** **TASK** Work with a partner or in small groups. Go to page 126. Choose one of the stories about a hoax.