

Video Worksheet

# ***The World's Weirdest Cemeteries***

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## **About the Video**

Tombstones, graves, mourners, and flowers. What else is there to find in a cemetery?

Actually, a lot more than you might expect. And these out of the ordinary graveyards will prove it.



## ***Instructions***

### How to Use This Worksheet

**Follow the steps below to get the most benefit from this worksheet.**

We recommend writing your answers and examples in a journal or a notebook, and reviewing the words you're learning regularly.

#### **STEP 1**

**Complete the 'Vocabulary' section before watching the video.**

You will understand more of the video if you familiarize yourself with the vocabulary first. This will also help you retain what you're learning. We've provided the answers for the exercises on page 10.

#### **STEP 2**

**Watch the video the first time without subtitles or the transcript.**

If you always watch English videos with the subtitles, you'll never give your listening skills a chance to improve. It's okay if you don't understand everything at first. **You'll notice a big improvement in a few weeks if you practice regularly.**

#### **STEP 3**

**Watch it a second time with the transcript if needed.**

We have provided a transcript for the video on page 7.

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#). You can also [visit our website](#) for more worksheets and lessons.



## Vocabulary Practice

### 1. WORDS IN CONTEXT

Match the words or phrases in bold to their synonyms or meanings.

fungus

entered by force

exists since

has ghosts

caskets

1. It **dates back to** the middle ages.
2. This cemetery in Edinburgh Scotland **is haunted**.
3. The type of **mold** in the church absorbed all the moisture.
4. It all started after Sir Mckenzie's mausoleum was **broken into** in the 1990s.
5. If you hang your **coffins** on cliffs, your descendants will grow more prosperous.

### 2. FILL IN THE BLANKS

Complete the sentences with the correct words.

You might have to change verb forms (talk - talking or talked).

coffin

is haunted

mold

date back to

break into

1. This tradition \_\_\_\_\_ medieval times.
2. You should get a \_\_\_\_\_ inspection before buying the house.
3. Rumor has it the hotel \_\_\_\_\_ by a man who died tragically there.
4. Believe it or not, grave robbers open \_\_\_\_\_ to steal jewelry.
5. I thought someone \_\_\_\_\_ my apartment but it was the cat!



## Vocabulary Practice

### 3. DEFINITIONS

Match the words or phrases to their definitions.

be come to

a mourner

a layer

mummify

1. \_\_\_\_\_: be the place where somebody or something is found.
2. \_\_\_\_\_: someone at a funeral grieving the death of a loved one.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: preserve the dead by embalming and wrapping in cloth.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: tier; material or substance that covers a surface of  
between two other things.

### 4. WHAT'S ANOTHER WAY TO SAY...?

Rewrite the sentences with one of the words above.

You might have to make some changes to the sentences or add/change a preposition.

1. How many **tiers** does your wedding cake have?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. This island is a **place where you can find** a variety of fish and marine animals.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Many **grievers** attended the funeral this morning.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Egyptians **preserved** bodies to prepare them for the afterlife.

\_\_\_\_\_



## Watch the Video

► [Click here to watch the video](#) (or search for 'World's WEIRDEST Cemeteries!' on YouTube).

Watch it at least once without subtitles or the transcript. Watch it a second time with the transcript if needed.

## Speaking Practice

### DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions.

*Try to give as much detail as you can. Elaborate with examples or stories whenever possible.*

1. What's weird about the mummies of the Church of Death?
2. According to legend, why did the Bo people hang coffins on cliffs?
3. What do you have to do to get a place in the Pere Lachaise cemetery?
4. Which of these cemeteries would you visit if you had the chance? Why?
5. In some places, to respect their dead, people offer food to mourners, and music is included in the funeral. In other places, people are expected to wear black clothing. What are the typical funeral rituals in your country?
6. Considering that cultural traditions can be vastly different among countries, how important is it to learn a country's traditions and customs before traveling?
7. What's the most striking cultural difference you've ever come across? It might be in terms of language, food, religion, clothing, or social norms.
8. In the US, Halloween is celebrated with elaborate costumes, sweets, pumpkin carving, and scary house decorations. What about in your country? Do you



celebrate Halloween? What are some other typical festivities that are deeply rooted in your culture?

9. Sometimes families develop their own traditions for birthday or marriage celebrations, family trips, etc. Did your family have a unique tradition?



# Writing Practice

## PRODUCTION

Choose 3 - 5 words you learned today, and use them to create one of the following:

1. 6 - 10 separate sentences
2. A paragraph
3. A short story
4. A poem or a song

# Tips for Better Writing

## USE A VARIETY OF SENTENCE STYLES

Avoid using simple sentences. Instead, try to use a variety of sentence styles.

Type	Definition	Example
Simple	Consists of only one clause.	<i>She likes traveling.</i>
Compound	Combines two independent clauses with <i>and, but, yet, so</i> , etc.	<i>She likes traveling, <b>and</b> she loves exploring new places.</i>
Complex	Combines one main clause and one dependent clause with <i>if, even though, because, unless</i> , etc.	<i><b>Even though</b> she likes traveling, she doesn't travel often.</i>



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# ***Transcript***

Tombstones, graves, wreaths, and mourners are just some of the things we are used to seeing in a cemetery

However, different cultures have different ways of respecting the dead, and therefore not all cemeteries will be quite what you'd expect

Here are some of the world's weirdest cemeteries

Know before you go

## *Number 1: Church of death*

The Church of death of Chiesa de Morty in Albania Italy is home to 18 mummies that date back to the middle ages up to the renaissance period

What's weird about these mummies is that nobody actually mummified them,

the mummification is thought to have occurred naturally thanks to the type of mold present in the church which absorbed all the moisture, thus mummifying the corpses.

## *Number two: Wall of death*

These hanging coffins are in Sichuan, China, and are the last remnants of the Bo people who were exterminated during the Ming dynasty over 500 years ago.





Unfortunately little is known of the reasons why they put their dead in coffins on the cliffside.

Legend says that the Bo people were told if you hang your coffins on cliffs braving the wind and rain, your descendants will grow more prosperous.

This may also explain why corpses were dressed in numerous layers of clothing.

### *Number three: Neptune memorial reef*

Just off the coast of Biscayne in Florida, lies the Neptune memorial reef which is the world's largest man-made reef.

It's also the world's first underwater cremation site

They take your cremated remains, mix them with concrete, and create features for the reef.

It would probably be more beneficial to the fish if they didn't cremate you before putting you down there, but it seems somehow less romantic

### *Number four: Greyfriars Kirkyard*

This cemetery in Edinburgh Scotland is supposedly haunted.

While that may not seem a weird thing for a cemetery, this cemetery's haunting started after Sir George Mckenzie's mausoleum was broken into in the 1990s.



The Edinburgh city council even got an exorcist in and closed off a section before realizing that offering nocturnal guide tours would probably be more profitable

*Number five: the Ce'merry'tery*

Death is generally a sad and dark subject but in Sapanta Romania, they've decided to go for a brighter outlook on life, well death

This small-town cemetery started a tradition over 80 years ago of hand painting wooden crosses in bright colors with a portrait and memorable phrase commemorating the deceased's life

There are now over 800

*Number six: Celebrity cemetery*

The Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris France is home to a lot of famous names: Oscar Wilde, Frederick Chopin, Maria Callas, and Jim Morrison are just a few of them

If you want to rest with the stars, you'll have to get on the extremely long waiting list and you'll have to have lived in Paris or have died there

We're not sure what happens if you die before the guy who is above you on the list though.

Which cemetery did you find the weirdest?



# Answer Key

## 1. WORDS IN CONTEXT

1. exists since    2. has ghosts    3. fungus    4. entered by force    5. caskets

## 2. FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. This tradition **dates back to** medieval times.
2. You should get a **mold** inspection before buying the house.
3. Rumor has it the hotel **was haunted** by a man who died tragically there.
4. Believe it or not, grave robbers open **coffins** to steal jewelry
5. I thought someone **broke into** my apartment but it was just the cat!

## 3. DEFINITIONS

1. **be home to**: to be the place where somebody or something is found.
2. **a mourner**: someone at a funeral grieving the death of a loved one.
3. **mummify**: preserve the dead by embalming and wrapping in cloth.
4. **a layer**: tier; material or substance that covers a surface of between two other things.

## 4. WHAT'S ANOTHER WAY TO SAY...?

1. How many **layers** does your wedding cake have?
2. This island **is home to** a variety of fish and marine animals.
3. Many **mourners** attended the funeral this morning.
4. Egyptians **mummified** bodies to prepare them for the afterlife.