



**Hello!**

## The Corona Virus

(Lisa, her mother Alma and her father Alberto are eating breakfast)

**Lisa:** Mom and Dad, I just got a text message that school is closed today.

**Alma:** Sure it is, Honey.

**Alberto:** Get your backpack and go catch the bus.

**Lisa:** No, I'm serious. Look. (*Shows them her phone.*) It's because of the Corona virus.

**Alma:** I heard that some schools were closing to prevent the virus from spreading.

**Alberto:** It's smart to be cautious. 500 people already have infections. 22 have died. Most of the people dying are elderly.

**Lisa:** That is scary. Where did the virus come from?

**Alma:** China. It started in an open-air market where they kept live animals.

**Alberto:** At this point, 80,000 Chinese are infected. And 3,000 have died.

**Lisa:** That's terrible. How can we stop it? Is there a vaccine yet?

**Alma:** Not yet. They think it will take 6 months to develop a vaccine.

**Alberto:** Wait, I just got a text from my boss. He says our office will be closed for the next two weeks because of the virus. I have to work from home.

**Lisa:** Yeah, I have to take my classes online.

**Alma:** Good. I don't want you to fall behind on your studies.

**Alberto:** My company is also telling us that we can't travel for the next two weeks.

**Lisa:** Why?

**Alma:** When you're in an airport or on an airplane, you come in contact with a lot of people, so you may pick up the virus.

**Alberto:** I am going to start wearing a face mask.

**Lisa:** Good idea. I am going to skip my friend's party on Friday.

**Alma:** OK. Better safe than sorry.

**Alberto:** Maybe we should cancel your parents' visit next week. It could be too risky for them to come here.

**Lisa:** Dad, they just live across the street.

**Alma:** Your father is just using the Corona virus as an excuse to avoid seeing his in-laws! Shameful!



Cynophobia



agoraphobia



acrophobia



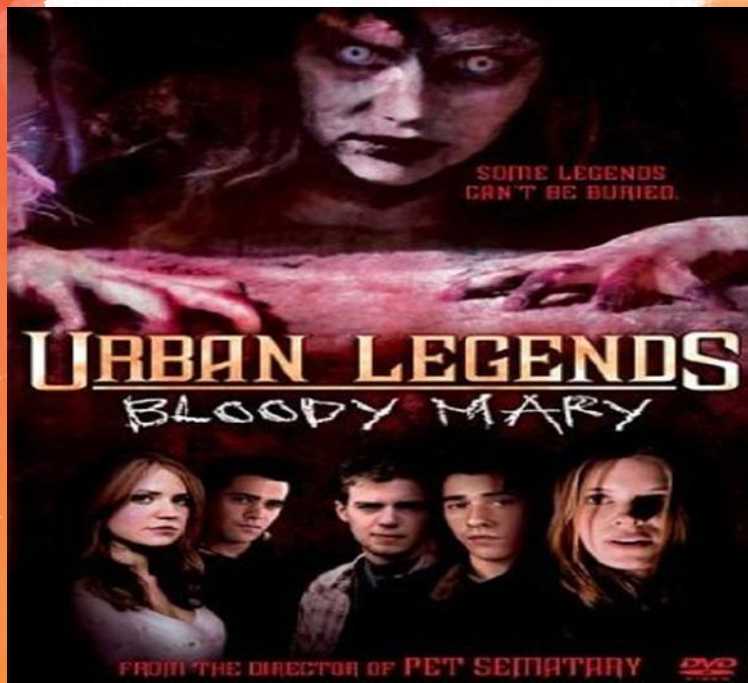
Aquaphobia




ophidiophobia



arachnophobia



- 2  3.03 Read the definition of an urban legend, then listen to the story. What happened? Did you like it?


**urban legend** *noun* a modern story that spreads spontaneously and has elements of humour or horror

I don't know your name I think this is sarah  
Yeah I have seen you before this is sarah

**Listening Strategy**

Speakers often use intonation to express their opinion or attitude about the statements they make. Pay attention to the speaker's tone of voice and the intonation they use to find out how they feel about their subject.

# Listen carefully

- 3  3.04 Read the **Listening Strategy**. Listen again to the first part of the story. Pay attention to the extracts (1–4) and match each extract with one of the adjectives below. There are two extra adjectives.

angry enthusiastic nervous patient sarcastic  
surprised

- 1 **Max** A horror story. Great, Ian. They're so interesting.  
2 **Jill** Oh shush, Max. Fantastic! How scary is it?  
3 **Ian** Well, whatever. I'm not saying it isn't true. It could easily be true.  
4 **Caro** Oh, dear. I don't like this story already.

## LEARN THIS! Intonation and meaning



### 1 Agreeing or disagreeing

As in question tags, our voice goes down at the end when we are making a statement or up when we aren't sure.

Her name's Sarah. (You don't expect people to disagree.)

Her name's Sarah. (You aren't sure.)

### 2 Qualifying an opinion

Rising intonation can give the spoken words a slightly modified opinion:


The film's quite good ... (there's an implied *but* at the end)

### 3 Flat voice for sarcasm or irony


If we use a flat tone, we mean the opposite to the words we use:

Brilliant! (You mean it.)

Brilliant. (You don't mean it.)

- 4  3.05 Read the **Learn this!** box. Then listen carefully to the examples. Repeat them, copying the intonation.




5  3.06 Listen to the examples from the story. Match them with rules 1–3 in the **Learn this!** box.

- 1 Ian You all like horror stories. \_\_\_
- 2 Caro Well, I think I like horror stories. \_\_\_
- 3 Max Oh, yeah. It's so scary. \_\_\_
- 4 Jill I quite like this kind of story. \_\_\_
- 5 Caro She shouldn't get out of the car. \_\_\_



# Listen carefully

6  3.07 Listen to the sentences (1–6). Choose the correct meaning (a or b).

- |                                 |                          |                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 I enjoyed the story.          | a qualifying             | b a statement         |
| 2 Brilliant. It's snowing.      | a enthusiastic           | b sarcastic           |
| 3 You'll love it.               | a sarcastic              | b expecting agreement |
| 4 This is the road home.        | a expecting disagreement | b expecting agreement |
| 5 This is nice.                 | a qualifying             | b statement           |
| 6 Oh, great. Just what we need. | a enthusiastic           | b sarcastic           |

7 **3.08** Listen to the interview. Choose the correct answers (a–d).

- 1 Dr Miriam Webster
    - a is a professor of urban myths and legends.
    - b studies urban legends with her students.
    - c writes down urban legends in her spare time.
    - d is the author of many different urban legends.
  - 2 The presenter thinks that urban legends
    - a generally seem unpleasant.
    - b are very charming.
    - c are always a fantasy.
    - d put you in a good mood.
  - 3 Dr Webster says that an urban legend
    - a is based on a traditional fairy story.
    - b is nearly always written down.
    - c generally has a single source.
    - d has many different versions.
  - 4 Urban legends are popular because
    - a most ordinary people like to be shocked or scared.
    - b they are better than Hollywood blockbuster films.
    - c humans have a need for turning life events into stories.
    - d generally people don't read novels much any more.
  - 5 The aim of the programme is to
    - a convince us that urban legends are generally true.
    - b show us exactly where urban legends came from.
    - c explain why we are wrong about urban legends.
    - d give background information about urban legends.
- 8 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Do you have urban legends in your country? Do you know any creepy, scary or incredible stories? Find a story and make notes for it. Share your story with another pair.

