Bloody Strange

Introduction – **Judging by the success of any type of vampire book or film, we do have a kind of OBSESSION with BLOOD. Ask other people in the group and report back to the group…**



1. Do you like vampire films or books?
2. Which have you seen or read?
3. Do you faint at the sight of blood?
4. Do you know what your blood group is?
5. Do you agree that 'blood is thicker than water'?
6. How many different popular novels or films can you think of with a vampire theme?
7. Why do you think vampire themes are so successful?
8. Do you like violent blood-thirsty films?

Activity One – **Match the expression to its definition**

Bloodstained	slightly vulgar expression used in common speech to add intensity to an expression
Bloody	the shedding of blood; to take a life; murder.
Bloodshot	Passionate
Blood wagon	someone who brings youthful freshness and vigour.
Blood-brother	Marked with blood
Blood is thicker than water	Lacking emotion
Young blood	Slang word for ambulance
Cold-blooded	Family is more important than friends.
Hot-blooded	eyes red from inflammation of the blood vessels of the white part of the eye..
Bloodshed	a person bound to another by an oath of solemn friendship.

Activity Two – English Expletives.

An expletive is a word that contributes nothing to meaning but suggests the strength of feeling of the speaker.

Bloody – is an ***expletive*** in English, it could even be described as a swear word. You will often hear English people using it (you'll know this if you have read the Harry Potter books).

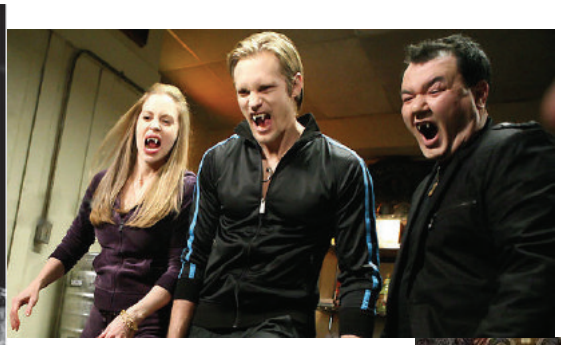
Here are some other adjectives we use to emphasise how strongly we feel about something (without using swear words) :

- Terribly
- Awfully
- Horribly
- Dreadfully
- Flipping (slang)
- Really
- Completely
- Totally
- Massively
- Absolutely

Now describe the images using adjectives and using one of the words in the list as an expletive.

For example – *I found the image terribly frightening.*









weird silly scary frightening strange





EASY ACCESS ENGLISH

Activity Three – Read the text and answer the questions with your partner.

Japan and blood types: Does it determine personality?

By Ruth Evans

Are you A, B, O or AB? It is a widespread belief in Japan that character is linked to blood type. Blood is one thing that unites the entire human race, but most of us don't think about our blood group much, unless we need a transfusion. In Japan, however, blood type has big implications for life, work and love.

Here, a person's blood type is popularly believed to determine temperament and personality. "What's your blood type?" is often a key question in everything from matchmaking to job applications.

According to popular belief in Japan, type As are sensitive perfectionists and good team players, but over-anxious. Type Os are curious and generous but stubborn. ABs are arty but mysterious and unpredictable, and type Bs are cheerful but eccentric, individualistic and selfish.

About 40% of the Japanese population is type A and 30% are type O, whilst only 20% are type B, with AB accounting for the remaining 10%.

The main blood group system is ABO, with four blood types: **A, B, O, AB Rhesus system**, for which you can be **positive or negative**, is the second most important with regard to blood transfusions

Morning television shows, newspapers and magazines often publish blood type horoscopes and discuss relationship compatibility. A whole industry of customised products has also sprung up, with soft drinks, chewing gum, bath salts and even condoms catering for different blood groups on sale.

Blood types, however, are simply determined by proteins in the blood. Although scientists regularly try to debunk these beliefs, they remain popular in Japan. It was only in 1901 that the ABO blood group system was discovered by the Austrian scientist Karl Landsteiner. His Nobel prize-winning work made it possible to identify the different blood groups, paving the way for transfusions to be carried out safely.

In Japan there is a whole theory about blood types and it is applied in many different areas. The women's softball team that won gold for Japan at the Beijing Olympics is reported to have used blood type theories to customise training for each player. Some kindergartens have even adopted methods of teaching along blood group lines, and even major companies reportedly make decisions about assignments based on employees' blood types.

1. What do many Japanese people believe about blood groups?

2. What are the different blood groups supposed to indicate about your personality?

3. Who discovered blood types?

4. What do the Japanese use blood types for?

5. Has it been scientifically proved that blood types affect personality?

6. What would your personality type be according to your blood type?

7. What kind of products have been adapted to blood type?

8. What do you think about this subject?

Activity Four – Love at first bite.

Watch the film trailer and explain what you learn about this film from it.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCBCwCZJAmI

1. Who are the main characters?

2. What is the 'threat' in the story?

3. What kind of film is it?

4. How do you kill a vampire?

5. Do you think it looks like a good film?

Activity Five – With your partner… Using a lot of adjectives to make your story more frightening, and using the past tense, tell a story around this picture – with the title:

"VAMPIRE IN THE TAXI."



Activity Six – Wall dictation and text to read.

Of all the ghouls that haunt Halloween and popular culture, vampires are one — at least in notoriety — that never seem to die, and a Purdue University professor has some ideas why.

"Vampire stories have been around for thousands of years. Even before biblical times there was evidence that people believed in vampire-like creatures," said James Nairne, a professor of psychological sciences.

Scholars who study the vampire myth attribute its longevity partly to the dual nature of fear and fascination, said Nairne, who teaches a course on the psychology of the supernatural.

"In order for a supernatural concept to last, it must be a member of a natural category," he said. "Vampires are like people. This permits humans to draw inferences about how vampires might think and act. At the same time, supernatural concepts violate features of their natural category. Vampires are like humans, but unlike humans, they are dead and drink blood. If too many of these features are violated, the supernatural concept will not be believable and will not last."

These aspects make vampires both appealing and disgusting to the human mind.

Humans have a natural aversion to things that are dead because bodies carry diseases, and our brain is wired to use this fear to avoid those diseases. Vampires are also predators, another thing humans are wired to avoid, Nairne said.

"Death is very difficult for us because we cannot easily process the idea that a person no longer exists," Nairne said. "Vampires activate disgust in our minds because we are afraid they may contaminate us, yet we are drawn to them because they embody the idea that the soul can continue to exist after death."

Nairne, who has traveled twice to the home of Dracula in Transylvania, Romania, says people also are attracted to the special powers of vampires, such as super strength or the ability to read minds.

"We find this attractive because then vampires appear to have a power over us. These special abilities simultaneously create worry and fascination. We are drawn to them much in the same way we might be drawn to celebrities.

"Because of this, it is likely that vampires will continue to live on for years to come."