ProTalk

Discussion Files



Language Center

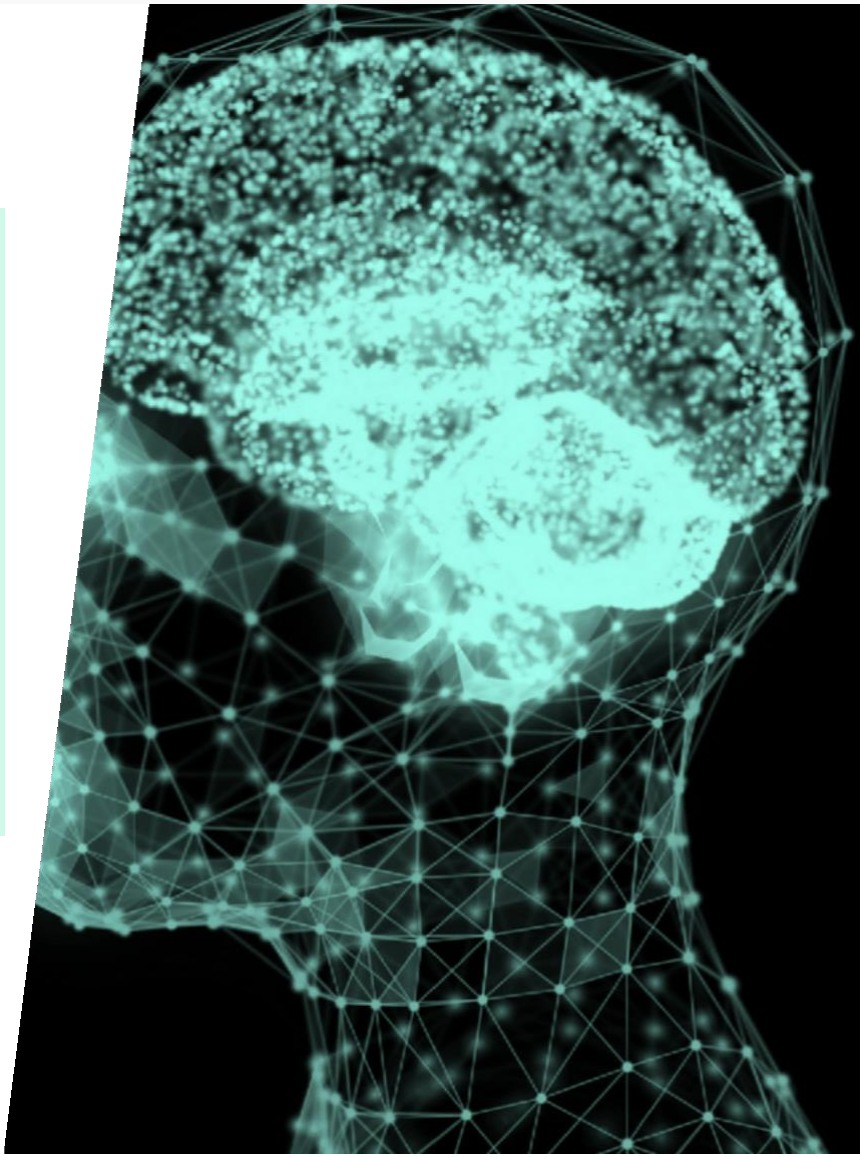
C2. Synchronicity

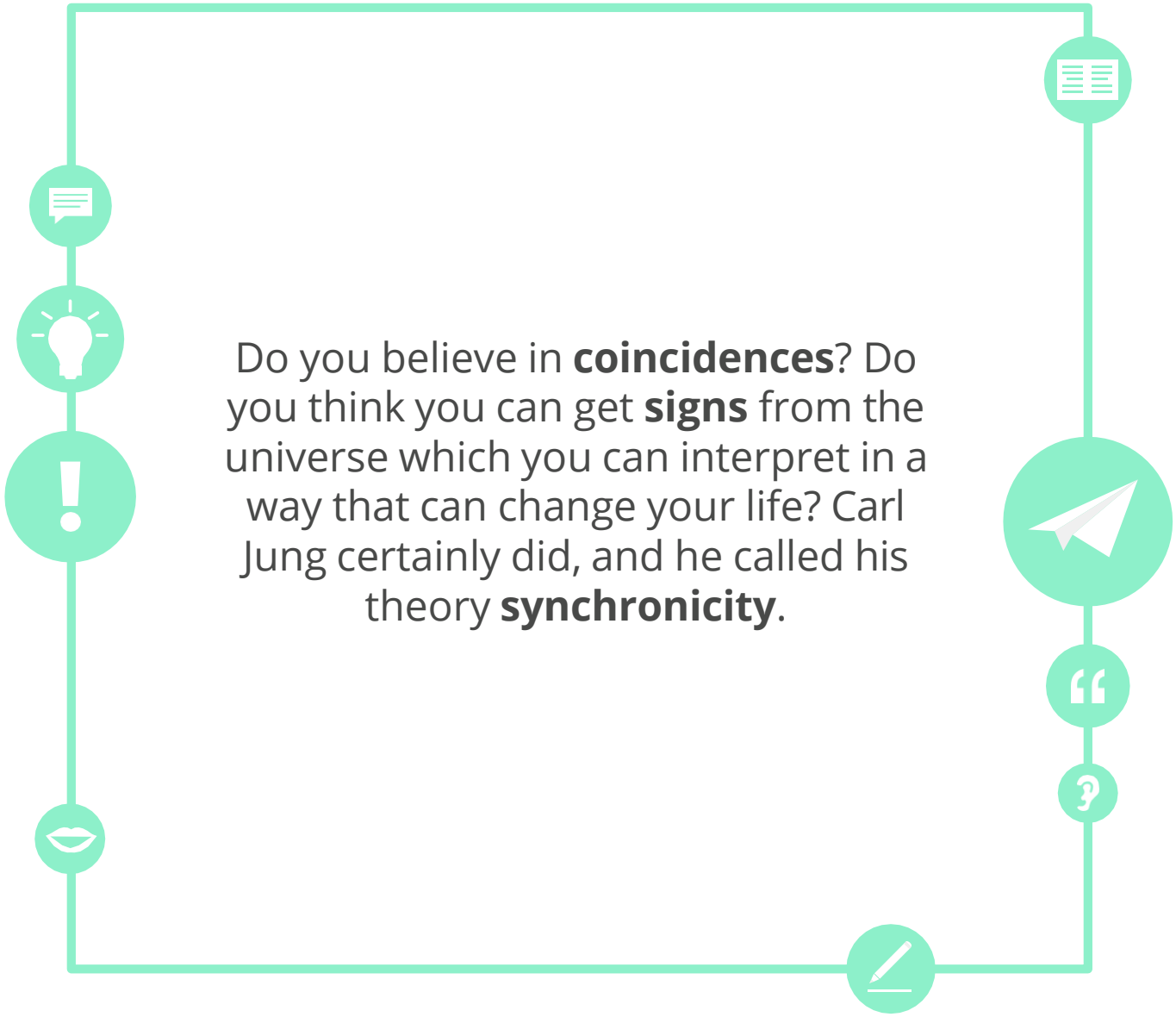
Afaq Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a complex technical text about synchronicity.
- Can discuss the act of rationalising and explain it precisely and in depth.



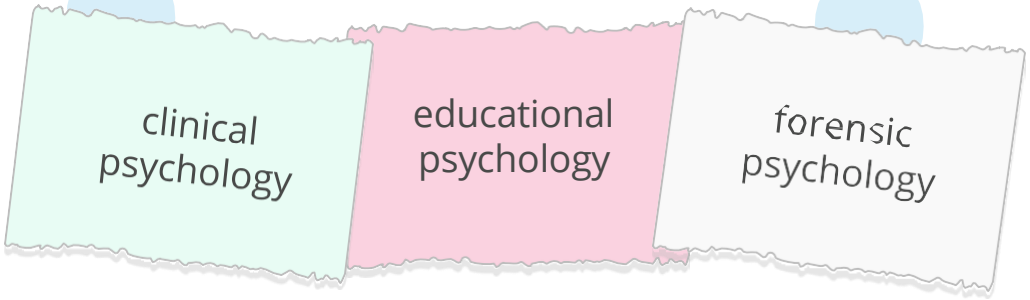


Do you believe in **coincidences**? Do you think you can get **signs** from the universe which you can interpret in a way that can change your life? Carl Jung certainly did, and he called his theory **synchronicity**.

Psychology

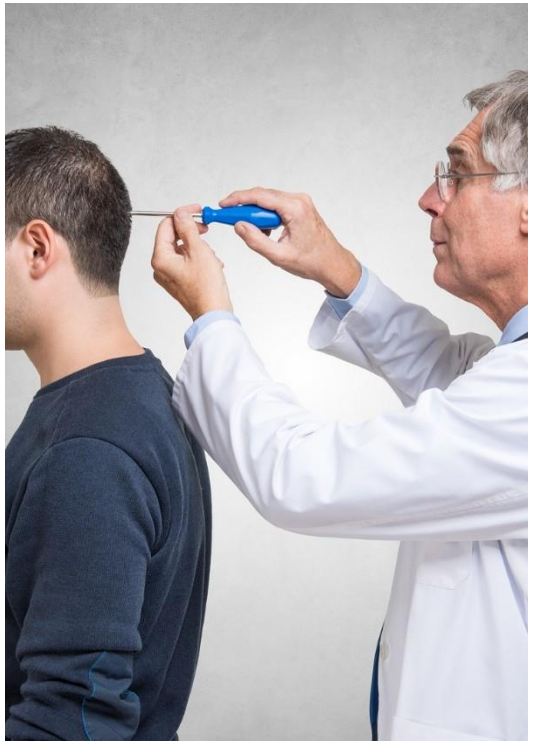
What do you know about psychology?

What about the different types of psychology?



Famous psychologists

Have you heard of any famous psychologists?



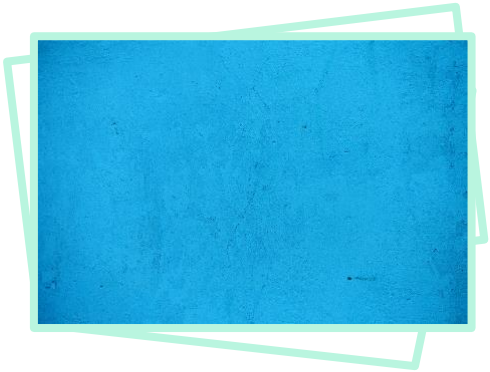
Sigmund Freud

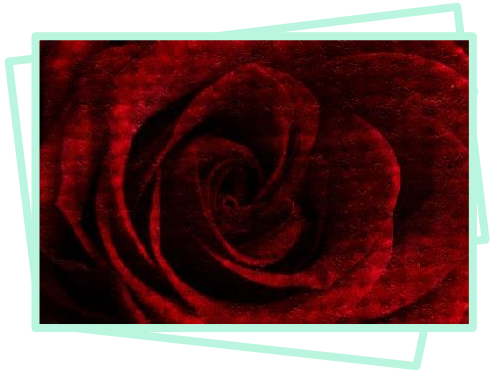
Carl Jung

Jean Piaget

Colour association

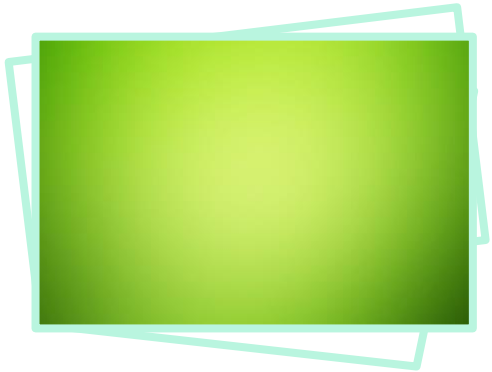
What do these colours make you think of? Your teacher will tell you what people normally associate with these colours.





power, anger

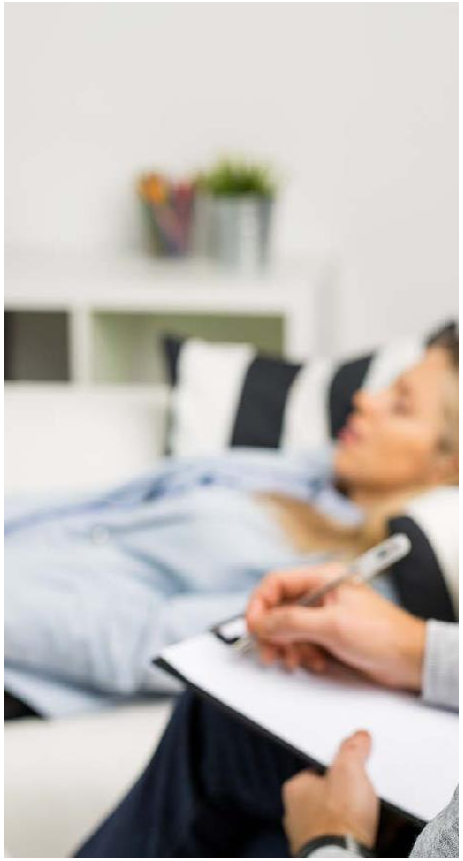




loyalty, wisdom

Read the text and summarize it.

Synchronicity



Synchronicity is a theory which was first put forward by psychologist Carl Jung, which suggests that events can be “meaningful coincidences”, even if they occur with no causal relationship. To put it another way, Jung believed that events can be connected by meaning; they do not have to be connected by cause.

Carl Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who was active in the first half of the twentieth century. His most famous collaboration was with Sigmund Freud, during the time when Freud needed collaborators to validate his ideas on psychoanalysis.

Read the text and summarize it.

Synchronicity



Jung also travelled widely and expounded many hypotheses, among them the above mentioned theory of synchronicity.

Jung's most famous example of synchronicity comes from one of his patients, a woman who was "psychologically inaccessible". The woman had had a dream about a golden scarab beetle and was recounting the dream to Jung in his office the next day.

At that very moment, Jung heard something knocking gently against the window; on closer inspection it turned out to be a real scarab beetle, which were very rare in that climate. Jung caught the beetle and handed it to his patient.

Read the text and summarize it.

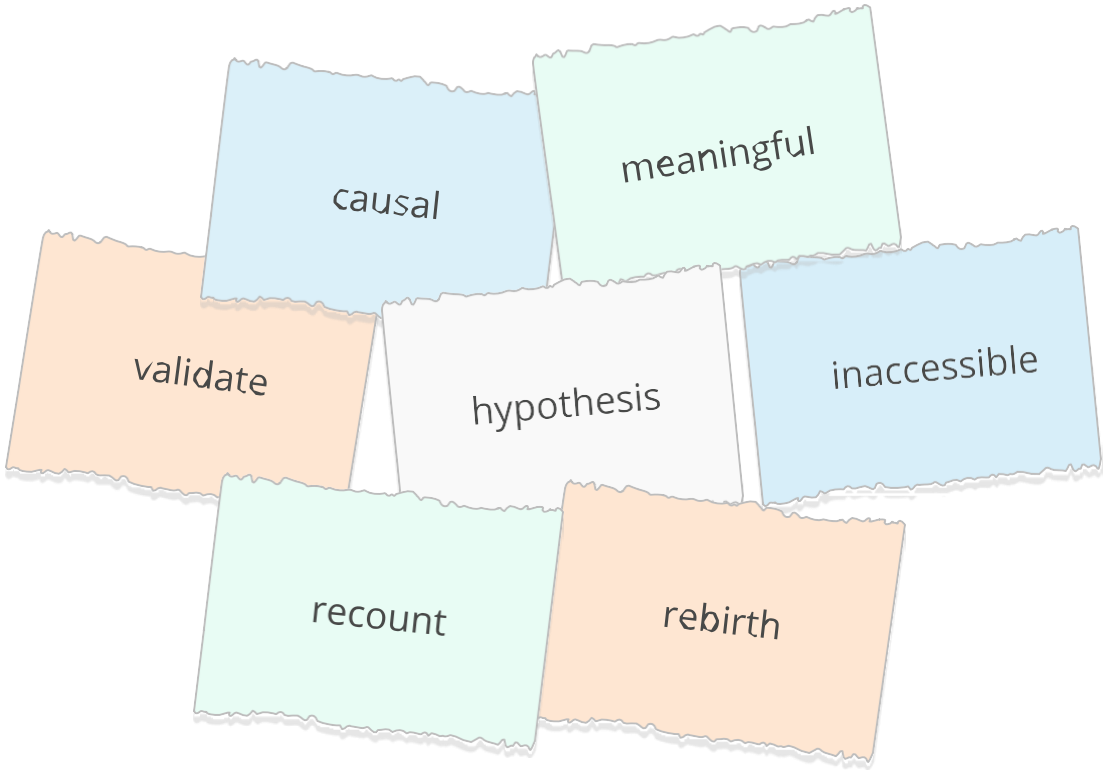
Synchronicity



Jung, however, did not treat this as a simple coincidence, but rather attempted to find meaning behind the event. He believed that the scarab beetle was connected to rebirth and that the woman in question would soon experience a rebirth of her own. No coincidence was considered meaningless.

Vocabulary

Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.



Tell your teacher

How do you understand the term *synchronicity*?

Can you find an example from your own life to illustrate your explanation?

Tell your teacher

What do you think of the story about the scarab beetle?
Was Jung right to attach meaning to such a coincidence?



Discuss

Do you have any examples of meaningful coincidences, or synchronicity, in your life?



symbols

numbers

people

Tell your teacher

Do you think the concept of synchronicity is useful?
Can it help us to be more mindful or does it make us attach significance to meaningless events?





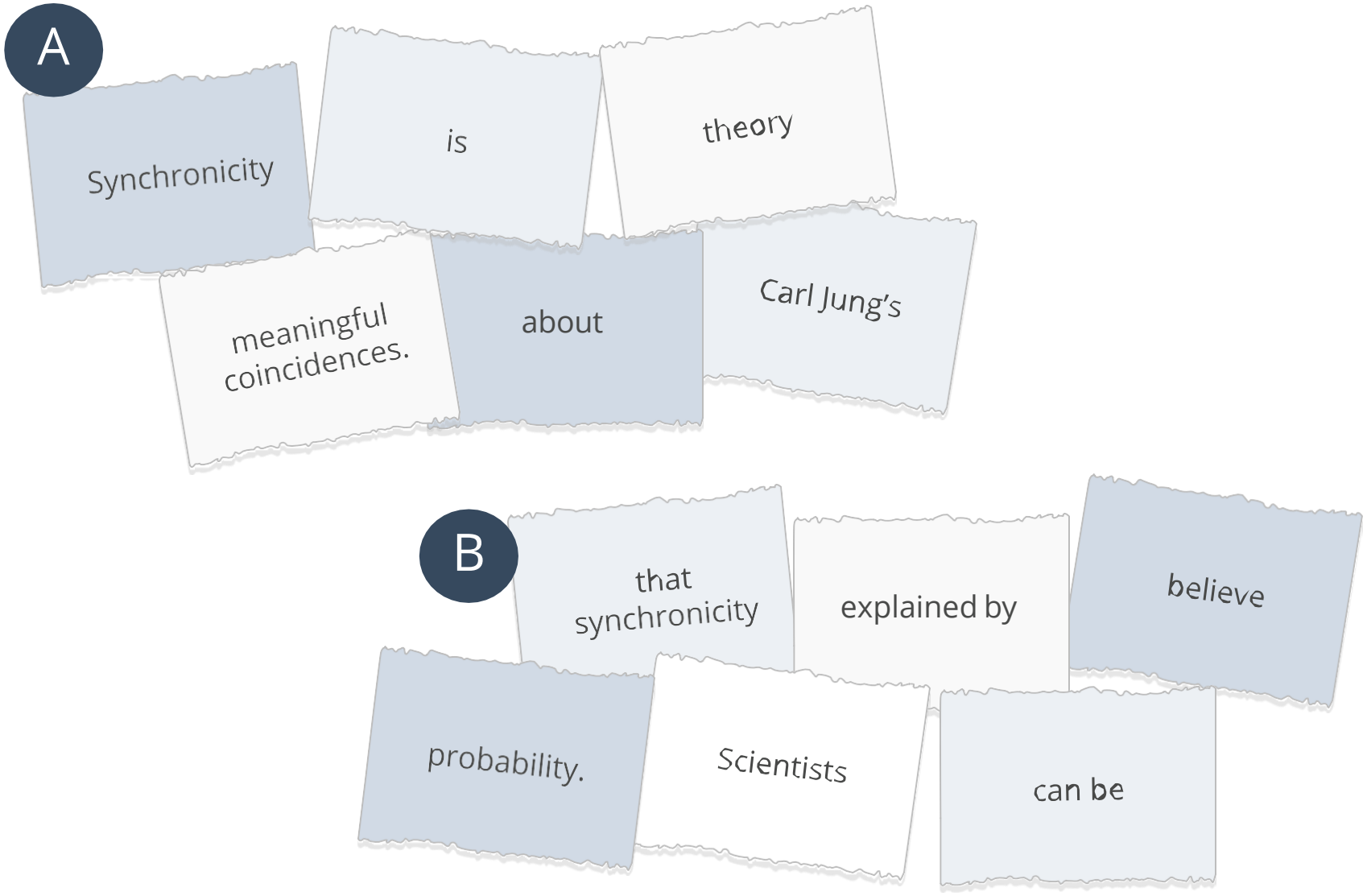
What about you?

Are you the kind of person who attaches significance to certain numbers, symbols or dreams?

Exercise p. 6

Red: anger, courage, love, romance
Blue: health, tranquillity, knowledge, understanding
Green: greed, jealousy, peace, balance
Yellow: happiness, freshness, optimism, creativity

Unscramble the words



Fill in the gaps

1. Synchronicity is a theory that tells us events can be connected by _____ as well as cause.
2. The theory was put forward by Carl Jung, who _____ with Sigmund Freud.
3. Jung connected a scarab beetle to _____.
4. Synchronicity often involves numbers or symbols _____.
5. Probability and _____ can often explain away coincidence.
6. People tend to want to _____ events.

rationalise

recurring

collaborated

meaning

rebirth

statistics

Exercise p. 24

A. Synchronicity is Carl Jung's theory about meaningful coincidences.

B. Scientists believe that synchronicity can be explained by probability.

Exercise p. 25

1. meaning, 2. collaborated, 3. rebirth, 4. recurring, 5. statistics, 6. rationalise

Presentation

Read the quote below and prepare a two-minute presentation.

Have you ever tried to rationalise something that doesn‘t make any sense? Why do you think you did it?

Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

> “The human mind wants to rationalise events. Furthermore, we avoid information which contradicts those things which we believe.”