

**ALIVE** or Dead?

*Toby is in the hospital recovering from a bicycle accident.*

*Read her conversation with her husband and find out:*

*What does she remember about the accident?*

**Ellis:** Toby, do you feel like talking now? You've been in the hospital for three days without saying much.

**Toby:** I know, Ellis. I've been afraid to say anything. **I'm afraid everyone will think I'm crazy** or that my brain has been damaged or something like that.

**Ellis:** What do you mean? You're fine. All of the tests show that you're OK. You broke your leg, but otherwise no permanent damage.

**Toby:** Yes, I know. But something strange happened to me. If I tell you, will you promise not to tell anyone else?

**Ellis:** Of course, honey. I'll keep it a secret.

**Toby:** OK, here goes: **I remember being hit by the car. Then I was floating, weightless, about five meters above my body, looking down at my poor broken body.** I didn't feel any pain. Actually, it was a very pleasant sensation.

**Ellis:** Wow! That is strange. What happened then?

**Toby:** I could see a crowd looking at my body. A man began to breathe into my mouth, trying to get me to breathe. I heard the wail of an ambulance as it arrived at the scene. Just then, the man who was breathing into my mouth stopped, stood up, and shrugged his shoulders. **He had given up. I was dead.**

**Ellis:** And you saw all of this, from above your body?

**Toby:** Yes, but I felt no emotion. That dead body on the road had no connection with me. I had left it behind and was free. I watched as one of the men from the ambulance opened his bag and pulled out a needle and filled it

from a bottle. Then he injected it straight into my heart. **The next thing I knew I was back in my body, feeling the terrible pain and weight of a smashed body.** The man shouted, "It worked! She's breathing! She's alive!"

**Ellis:** Oh, my gosh. Yes, they told me that. They said you were very near death. Well, it's OK now. Don't worry, I won't tell anyone.



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Do you believe Toby's story? Check your opinion.

Yes. This is a typical near-death experience. I know someone who had an experience like this.



No! It's total nonsense. Maybe Toby's brain was damaged in the accident.



I'm not sure. I don't understand how it could happen.



No. Toby's probably confused because of the drugs and medicine she was given.



Yes. I've heard stories about the same experience, and I believe them.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

**TURN TO PAGE 87 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.**

**LOOKING AT THE ISSUE**

What do you think happens when a person dies?  
Why do you think so?

- When a person dies, that's it. There is nothing else. Life is over.
- When a person dies, he or she will come back to life in a different form: as an insect, an animal or another person.
- When a person dies, the body is dead but the soul is alive and goes to a different world.

I don't agree with any of those ideas. Here's what I think happens:

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