

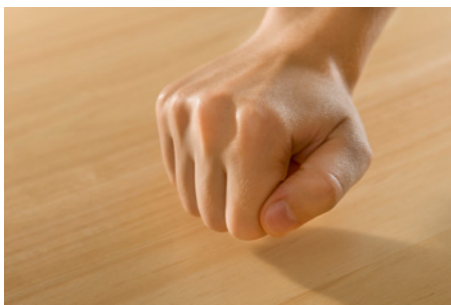
# EVERYDAY LIFE

## SUPERSTITIONS

Success criteria	Yes/No	Example (where relevant)
The text includes a 'clickbait' style title		
The text is written in a list format		
The text is below the maximum word count		
The text directly addresses the audience ('you')		
The text includes a rhetorical question		
The text uses different formatting and style features to attract the reader's attention		
The overall tone of the text is informal and chatty		
The text includes sarcasm and/or humour		
The text includes an exaggerated statement		

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Look at the pictures and guess: what's the theme of today's lesson?



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## SUPERSTITIONS

## WORKSHEET

### EXERCISE 1

Work with a partner. Discuss the following questions about today's topic.

- Are you superstitious: do you believe that there are things which bring good or bad luck?
- Do you have any other superstitions in your country? Do your family have their own superstitions? If so, what are they?
- Why do you think people are superstitious?
- 'People were more superstitious in the past compared to now.' Do you agree? Explain your answer.

### EXERCISE 2

a. You're going to read a text with the title: *Top 5 superstitions that people STILL believe!* Before you read the text, discuss these questions:

1. Where might you find this text?
2. What do you think the purpose of the text will be?
3. What do you think the layout of the text will be like?
4. What type of language do you expect to find in this text? (e.g. formal / informal, etc)

Read the text. Is it what you expected?

b. Answer the questions according to the text.

1. Who still believes these superstitions?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In what ways was data gathered for this article?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which superstition is still the most widely believed?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many of the superstitions were invented by the writers of this article?

\_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE 3

a. Find a word or phrase in the text to match each definition.

1. give something a place within a grading system: \_\_\_\_\_
2. evidence: \_\_\_\_\_
3. huge, really big: \_\_\_\_\_
4. find evidence that something is true: \_\_\_\_\_
5. something that no longer happens or exists: \_\_\_\_\_
6. describing someone who is easy to trick: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Use the words from part a to complete the questions below. There are two words you don't need. Then ask each question to your partner.

1. Do you think you're a \_\_\_\_\_ person? Why / Why not?
2. How would you \_\_\_\_\_ each of the superstitions from the article, based on the scale mentioned?
3. Where is the \_\_\_\_\_ that man really walked on the moon?
4. Do you think that mobile phones will become \_\_\_\_\_? Why / Why not?

### Did you know...?

Online articles like this, that are written in a short, sharp list format, are sometimes referred to as *listicles*. These are often used as *clickbait* – they are designed in a way to encourage social media users to click and read the content. Clickbait often includes a snappy headline, like 'Top 10 ...', 'X ways to ...', or words like 'unbelievable' and 'amazing'.

## EXERCISE 4

When you learn a new word, it may help to record it in a table like this:

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb	Collocations/other
proof	prove (something)	proven		We can 'disprove' things too: find out that they are not true
ranking	rank (something)			world ranking (e.g. in sport)

Add the words in bold from the text to the table. Then add any other forms each word that you can think of. Use a dictionary to help you.

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### EXERCISE 5

This text is written to inform and entertain. The writer uses a range of techniques and language features to engage the audience. Read each description in the table. Search for examples of this feature in the text. An example has been done for you.

Feature	Example(s)
The writer directly addresses the reader to make the text feel more personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A massive 90% of our subscribers (that probably means <b>you</b>) ...</li> <li>Or, maybe half of <b>you</b> are just gullible</li> </ul>
The writer uses rhetorical questions. These are not meant to be answered, they are used to engage the reader or get them thinking	
The writer changes the formatting and style of the text to draw attention to certain features	
The writer uses an informal, chatty tone to seem more personal	
The writer uses sarcasm, which adds humour to the text	
The writer uses hyperbole (exaggeration) to emphasise their point	

E V E R Y D A Y  
L I F E

**SUPERSTITIONS**

**WORKSHEET**

**EXERCISE 6**

Can you write like the writer?

Write a short clickbait listicle on one of the topics below, or use your own ideas.

- Halloween superstitions
- weird superstitions from around the world
- fake superstitions that will trick your friends
- songs that mention superstitions

Write no more than 400 words. Refer to your notes from Exercise 5, and the 'Did you know?' box to help you.

Handwriting practice area with 18 horizontal lines.

## Top 5 superstitions that people STILL believe!

Superstitions are a thing of the past, right? Wrong. Last month, we shared a list of common **superstitions** with our online subscribers. We asked which of the superstitions they believed were true. They ranked each superstition on our highly **scientific** scale:

- **This is 100% true – I can prove it!**
- **There's some truth in that...**
- **Hmmm, I'm not sure...**
- **Rubbish! I don't believe that for a second!**

The results were surprising...

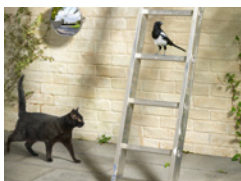


### 1. BREAKING A MIRROR

A massive 90% of our subscribers (that probably means you) believed that if you break a mirror, you'll get seven years bad luck. In the comments section, one user even believed that smashing a mirror gives you bad luck for life. That sounds a bit extreme ...

### 2. OPENING AN UMBRELLA INDOORS

'It's bad luck to open an umbrella indoors.' Nearly everybody believed that there was some **truth** in this statement. When we asked you to tell us 'why?' in the comments section, one helpful user wrote: 'Because it is.' Thanks for that.



### 3. LADDERS

'Walking under a ladder brings bad luck.' Over two-thirds of subscribers felt there was some truth in this. Whether it's good or bad, walking under a ladder just sounds like a **stupid** idea to us!

### 4. LUCKY BIRD POO

'It's good luck to get hit by falling bird poo.' That's what around half our subscribers believe. We liked the comments from one user though, who stressed, 'Yeah, it's good luck, but I don't stand outside waiting for it to happen.'



### 5. NEVER WEAR BLUE ON A THURSDAY

Here's the proof that people will believe anything. We added a fake superstition to our list, just to see how our subscribers reacted. Surprisingly, half our online users believed that 'if you wear blue on a Thursday, you'll be tired all day'. Maybe that is a superstition somewhere in the world. Or, maybe half of you are just gullible.