

A2.14 Beliefs/Superstitions

Useful Language:

- People believe it is unlucky to walk under a ladder.
- Do you believe in life after death?
- You will meet a tall, dark, handsome stranger.

1



Read about these people talking about superstitions in the U.K. Are they the same in your country? Are you superstitious?



Image Attribution to just.Luc

Two famous superstitions in the U.K. are the number '13' and black cats 'crossing your path'. It's stupid I know, but I must admit I avoid doing anything important on a 'Friday the 13th' because that is unlucky. But black cats crossing your path brings good luck in the U.K.!

Sam

1



Image Attribution to Olivander

The only one I'm careful about is walking under a ladder. People believe it is unlucky to walk under a ladder. Some people walk into the road to avoid going under one. But maybe there is a good reason for it. If you go under the ladder, a bucket could fall on your head. But I think most superstitions are rubbish.

Ted

A2.14 Beliefs/Superstitions



Image Attribution to passitonfromthemill

This superstition is from my gran. She told me she could tell people's futures by 'reading' the tea leaves left in their tea cup. But these days everybody uses tea **bags** not **leaves** so, - it's not possible for her to see the future any more!

Jan



Image Attribution to cole mama

When I play any game with dice, I always blow on the dice as I'm shaking them. I do it for good luck. I don't gamble, so it's just board games with kids, but it works!

Matt



Image Attribution to Merrick Brown

The superstition I know about is, 'breaking a mirror means you are going to have seven years of bad luck'. I really hope it isn't true because I have broken a lot of mirrors in my life. I think I could have bad luck all my life if it's true.

William

A2.14 Beliefs/Superstitions

2



Discuss the questions in the box with your partner.

- Do you have a lucky number or lucky clothes?
- Do you believe in ghosts? Or 'jinn' (genies)?
- Do you believe that houses can be haunted?
- Do you believe that there may be life on other planets? Do you believe in U.F.O.s?
- Do you think that dreams can come true?
- Have you ever been to a fortune teller?
Why/why not?
- Do you believe in horoscopes/star signs/
astrology? Why/why not?
- Do you believe in God? Why/why not?
- Do you believe in life after death?
- Do you believe in heaven?
- Do you believe in hell?
- What do most people in your country believe?
- Do you believe that your ancestors are watching
over you and protecting you?
- Do you believe some people can 'read' minds?

3

A2.14 Beliefs/Superstitions

3



Roleplay: 'The Fortune Teller'

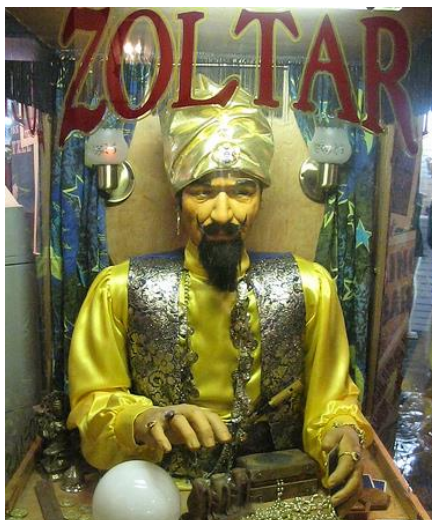


Image Attribution to Nellyfus

Imagine that one of you is interested in knowing about their future. So you have paid a fortune teller to predict the future. Roleplay the conversation.

4

Customer: Ask questions about the future using, "Am I going to...?" and, "Will I ...?". Ask questions about love, work, money and travel. You are worried, so you hope that you will hear positive things in all these areas of your life.

Fortune Teller: You only see good things in the future. If you are certain use, "going to". If you are not certain use, "I think you will...". Predict happiness in love, work, money and travel.

4



Write six predictions for the future of your country. Use "I think..." or "I believe...".

I think unemployment is definitely going to increase.

