

Grammar in context: History

Instruction: Complete the essay with the correct form verbs in brackets. (Past simple/present perfect)

THE HISTORY OF SUPERSTITIONS

How long (1) _____ people _____ (have) superstitions? Probably since the world (2) _____ (begin)! For thousands of years, people (3) _____ (look) for ways to explain why certain things happen.

THE EVIL EYE



The superstition of the evil eye (4) _____ (exist) in Greece since ancient times. The ancient Greeks (5) _____ (believe) that some people could have a bad effect on others just by looking at them. Since then, Greek people (6) _____ (wear) special bracelets with a blue "eye" on them to protect them from evil.

Cats



For centuries, people (7) _____ (think) that cats have magical powers. For this reason, the ancient Egyptians (8) _____ (keep) cats in their homes and (9) _____ (not allow) anyone to treat them badly.

THE NUMBER 13



Why (10) _____ this number _____ (become) an unlucky number? Some people say it is because there (11) _____ (be) 13 people at Christ's last meal. Friday the 13th (12) _____ (not always be) an unlucky date. People only (13) _____ (start) being superstitious about it in the 20th century, but no one really knows why.