

1B Homework

1 READING

- a Read the text. Which topic is not mentioned?

politics relationships business food sports



The dream destination for astrology addicts

While in the US the general belief in astrology is limited to glancing at horoscopes in newspapers and magazines, in India people take their star signs very seriously indeed.

Astrology programs are shown on many of India's 320 television channels, and at least a dozen stations are devoted entirely to astrology 24 hours a day. Kolkata housewife Lata Banerji always starts her day by turning on the astrology channel, Shristi, to find out what the day holds for her and whether she will have to face any kind of domestic crisis. She also receives information on what food she should eat to avoid illness. "It gives me the confidence I need to face the day," she says. "Americans go to a therapist every week to cope with life. I get my sense of well-being from the advice I get from astrologers."

Astrology is important in India in all walks of life, but especially when it comes to choosing a marriage partner. Some astrological combinations are considered unfavorable, for example when the planet Mars is in a certain position on a person's birth

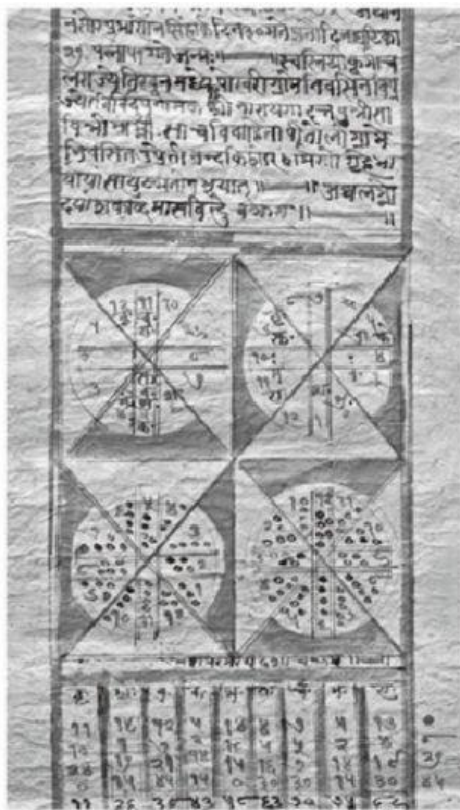


chart. In this case, people believe that the couple will not get along and that their marriage will end badly. The only way around this is for the person with the unlucky combination to “marry” something symbolic before their real wedding. This is exactly what Bollywood actress and former Miss World, Aishwarya Rai did some years ago when she “married” a banana tree in the hope of avoiding problems in her marriage with the actor Abhishek Bachchan.

Yet, it is not only in the field of love that Indians seek astrological advice. There are

some programs on TV that specialize in medical astrology, with callers asking about health issues. Others provide investment and business advice. Astrology is even important in politics with prime ministers asking their astrologers for a “promising” date before announcing a general election.

Nowadays it is almost obligatory for Indian parents to have a horoscope drawn up when a baby is born. Two people taking advantage of the boom in business are Kalidas Sriram and Vishi Babu, who have put up their tents complete with laptop computer and printer, right outside Kolkata’s main hospital. They either visit the maternity wards or wait outside until new parents leave to offer their services. For the equivalent of \$4, they use the baby’s time and date of birth to print out a horoscope for the happy parents.

Many Indians have no doubt that astrology can change people’s lives for the better. The glamorous Sunita Menon, India’s most famous fortune-teller, was an air hostess until a tarot reader predicted that she would change jobs. Now she is the host of a hugely popular television program and was recently hired by India’s most famous music company to give advice about investment and business decisions.



Sunita Menon

- b** Read the text again and choose the right answer.
- 1 ...radio stations are **only** about astrology.
a 320 b 12 c 24
 - 2 Lata Banerji watches an astrology channel...
a to help her in her daily life.
b because she is very worried about getting sick.
c because she can't afford a therapist.
 - 3 The actress Aishwarya Rai married a tree...
a to **make** sure it produced a lot of bananas.
b to **bring** her luck in the search for a husband.
c to ensure her marriage was successful.
 - 4 According to the text, Indians ask astrologers...
a how they should vote in the election.
b where they can get a good job.
c for advice about many things.
 - 5 Sunita Menon works as...
a an adviser for a well-known company.
b a tarot card reader.
c a flight attendant.
- c** Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases. What do you think they mean? Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

2. Vocabulary

- 1 My grandmother is always forgetting her keys. She's very absentminded. (mind)
- 2 Oliver's wife isn't as crazy as he is. She seems very _____. (balance)
- 3 Our English teacher doesn't get angry easily. She's extremely _____. (temper)
- 4 My parents are very _____. They won't listen to other people's opinions. (mind)
- 5 Grace never thinks of anyone else because she's so _____. (center)
- 6 My sister-in-law is very _____. She says one thing and does another. (face)
- 7 Since he went abroad, Jack has become more _____ about other cultures. (mind)
- 8 You won't be able to change her mind – she's very _____. (will)
- 9 When we go out, my friend Jack never offers to pay for gas. I wish he wasn't so _____. (fist)
- 10 The new manager thinks a lot of himself. He's very _____. (head)

3 MINI GRAMMAR the... the... + comparatives

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in parentheses.

- 1 The more you worry about it, the worse you'll feel.
(worry a lot, bad)
- 2 The _____ you own, the _____ you become.
(a lot of gadgets, lazy)
- 3 The _____ you are, the _____ he'll be.
(late, angry)
- 4 The _____ my English, the _____ I'll speak.
(practice a lot, good)
- 5 The _____ it gets, the _____ you have to wear.
(cold, a lot of clothes)
- 6 The _____ you do, the _____ you'll get.
(a lot of exercise, strong)

4 GRAMMAR auxiliary verbs

Complete the dialogues with a tag question or an auxiliary and the subject if necessary.

1 A I texted you last night, but you didn't reply.

B Yes, I did reply. I texted you right away.

2 A I don't feel like cooking tonight.

B Neither _____. Let's go out for dinner. I'd love some Mexican food.

A So _____. Come on. Let's go.

3 A I've seen this movie before.

B Well, I _____.

A Do you mind if I change channels?

B Yes, I _____ mind! I want to see the end.

4 A You are going to Sam's party, _____?

B No, I'm not.

A Why not? You haven't argued with him again, _____?

B Yes. And we aren't going out anymore.

5 A I'll be back a little bit late tonight.

B You _____? Where are you going?

A To a concert with some friends.

B Oh, OK. You'll be back before 12, _____?

A Of course.

6 A Pete, you couldn't lend me some money _____?

B No, sorry. Why?

A I spent my entire salary already this month.

B So _____. That's why I can't lend you any!

- 7 A I didn't go out last night.
B Neither _____. I was too tired.
A So _____.
- 8 A You aren't from around here, _____?
B No, I'm from Australia. I haven't been here long.
A I don't suppose you like this cold weather.
B Actually, I _____ like it. I prefer cool weather to hot weather.