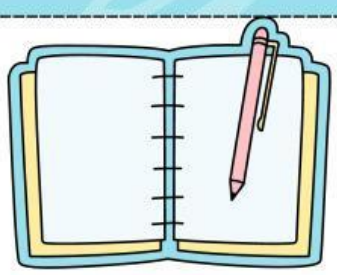
READING EXERCISE



Read the text. Then do the exercises.

Superstitions are beliefs or practices that are not based on scientific evidence, yet many people continue to follow them in daily life. These traditions often come from ancient customs, cultural stories, or fear of the unknown. While superstitions may seem irrational, they can strongly influence how people behave and make decisions.

One well-known example is the fear of the number 13, especially in Western cultures. This number is frequently avoided in hotels and office buildings — sometimes the floor numbers jump from 12 directly to 14. Friday the 13th is particularly feared by some, who believe the combination of the day and the number can lead to misfortune. Although there's no proof that the day is unlucky, some individuals cancel appointments or avoid travel on that date.

On the other hand, there are superstitions that are thought to bring good luck. In Ireland, discovering a four-leaf clover is considered a rare and fortunate event. In many Asian countries, particularly China, the number 8 is associated with prosperity and success because its pronunciation is similar to the word for wealth. As a result, people may pay extra for phone numbers, license plates, or apartment units that contain the number 8.

Despite modern education and access to information, superstitions remain popular in many societies. Psychologists suggest that these beliefs offer a sense of control or comfort, especially in uncertain situations. Whether or not superstitions are true, they reflect the human desire to influence luck and avoid bad outcomes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. According to the text, why do people still believe in superstitions?

A. They don't have access to science

B. They enjoy traditional stories

C. Superstitions give them a sense of control

D. They are forced to follow cultural rules

2. What is the connection between the number 8 and wealth in China?

A. It is considered lucky in Western cultures

B. It is a religious number

C. Its pronunciation sounds like a word meaning wealth

D. It is used in the national calendar

3. What does the text suggest about superstitions and behavior?

A. Superstitions rarely influence daily life

B. People only believe them when they are young

C. They can affect people's choices and routines

D. Scientists often promote them

4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a form of good luck?

A. A four-leaf clover

B. The number 8

C. Friday the 13th

D. Certain license plates

5. What is the author's general attitude toward superstitions?

A. Strongly negative — they should be banned

B. Completely supportive

C. Neutral — recognizing their emotional role in human life

D. Confused about their popularity

LIVEWORKSHEETS