

PRACTICE 11

You are going to read an article about Chinese superstitions. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Chinese Superstitions

The Chinese community in Malaysia usually follows some superstitions be it in their daily lives or on Chinese New Year. Before Chinese New Year, we see people thronging the shopping malls to buy oranges and red decorative items. Oranges and the colour red signify good fortune. (1) _____ One shouldn't wear black because it symbolises the onset of bad luck.

Before Chinese New Year, every nook and corner of the house must be cleaned. A clean house brings good luck and fortune. Never ever clean the house on Chinese New Year Day as it signifies sweeping out all the good luck. In addition, no one is allowed to use any sharp objects like knives (2) _____

What about the giving of gifts? Superstitious Chinese consider gifting a clock to someone as a curse. To them, a clock symbolises death or a funeral. (3) _____ Well, a handkerchief is a sign of 'saying goodbye forever' so maybe it's not the best gift. Next, remember not to give cut flowers on Chinese New Year. This is because cut flowers are generally used during funerals. This is especially so for the yellow chrysanthemum and any white flowers. (4) _____ So, avoid giving white flowers.

Umbrellas and mirrors are taboos too. Giving someone an umbrella as a gift signifies the end of a relationship. (5) _____ The Chinese and in fact, most Asians believe that mirrors attract ghosts. It is also believed that if one breaks a mirror, he or she will encounter seven years of bad luck.

There're lots of superstitions for pregnant women. Pregnant women are advised to place a knife under their bed to protect the unborn baby from evil spirits. For a smooth, easy delivery, a pregnant woman should not use glue in any way. (6) _____

- A People tend to cut themselves when they use knives carelessly.
- B Black during Chinese New Year is a taboo.
- C Mirrors are also considered unlucky gifts.
- D White is symbolic of funerals and death.
- E A knife symbolises the cutting of good fortune.
- F Mirrors are to be avoided at all cost.
- G Gluing signifies a difficult labour.
- H What about giving someone a handkerchief?

PRACTICE 12

You are going to read a story about Lionel. Six sentences have been removed from the story. Choose from the sentences (A – H) to fit each gap (1 – 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Lionel's Day of Mishaps

"What should I do about the leaking roof?" There had been a thunderstorm the night before and Lionel woke up in the morning to find parts of his living room wet from the leak. Lionel took the ladder and climbed up the roof to have a look.

"I should call the contractor," he said to himself. (1) _____

Just then Lionel felt thirsty. He turned on the tap to get himself a glass of filtered water but there was nothing. "No water? The piping is giving me problems again!" (2) _____ He couldn't do with water!

Since he couldn't do anything but wait, Lionel he sat down on the sofa and flipped through a travel brochure. "Perth! I should make that my next holiday destination."

Lionel travelled very often. He was a sports journalist who covered global sports so he was always in one country or another. (3) _____ But this time, Lionel had taken a month's leave and his parents were coming over to visit their only child.

Suddenly Lionel jumped up. "The bedroom!" He went to check the guest bedroom. He switched on the light but no light came on. "What? The light is giving me problems now?" He sighed. (4) _____

Lionel decided to go to the garden to do some Jumping Jacks. "Ow! My ankle!" (5) _____. He yelped in pain! Just then, his parents arrived and heard him crying out from the garden. His father called the ambulance but it took forever to come. (6) _____ He had missed the small turning into Lionel's house.

After Lionel was taken to hospital, his parents came back to the house. Lionel's parents looked at each other in resignation when they found the house in a mess. Just then, the contractor, plumber and electrician all arrived at the same time.

- A He got down and went back into the house.
- B Lionel bent down to have a look at his ankle only to hurt his back.
- C Taking out his mobile phone, he called the electrician.
- D Lionel could not help himself up.
- E Lionel called the plumber immediately.
- F Lionel's parents were very angry with him.
- G In fact, he spent very little time at home.
- H It turned out that the driver could not find Lionel's house.