

Reading – The Game Before the Game

What is a superstition?

Give an example of one superstition in your country.

Now read the text on p. 85 in your books and complete the table.



Footballer	Country	Most important superstition
Laurent Blanc		
Pelé		
Kolo Touré		
Pepe Reina		
Kim Little		

Read again. Are these sentences True or False?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Neymar Jr. does something very unusual before each match. | T | F |
| 2. In the 1998 World Cup France had one superstition on the pitch and two off the pitch. | T | F |
| 3. Pelé started to play well again because he got his lucky shirt back. | T | F |
| 4. Pepe Reina's car always needs petrol just before the a match. | T | F |
| 5. Eating the same food before each match is a silly superstition. | T | F |
| 6. Psychologists don't believe that superstitions can help a player. | T | F |

What do the following words from the text mean? Explain in English.

- ⚽ irrational
- ⚽ to host
- ⚽ to give away
- ⚽ a teammate
- ⚽ to refuse
- ⚽ a crossbar

Critical thinking

What do you think is the author's opinion of sports superstitions?

What is your opinion of their importance?

Which superstition or ritual in the text do you think is the funniest or most unusual?

Do you have any rituals/routines before writing some test, exams, or playing some sports?