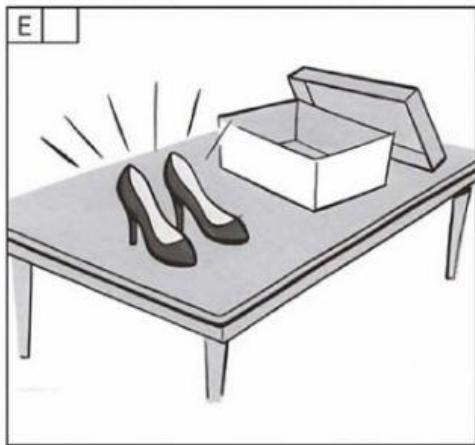
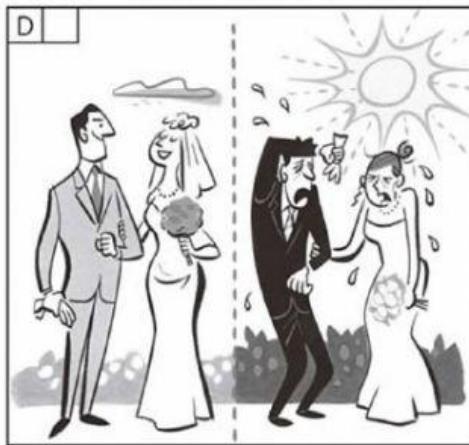
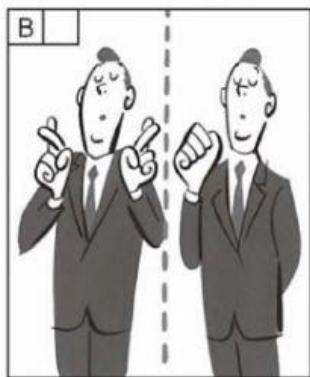


1. Listen to 5 people talking about superstitions. Match each speaker



to the pictures.

2. Now listen and read the text.

SPEAKER 1

I know a lot of people who are superstitious when they see somebody standing on top of **a ladder** on the sidewalk and they don't want to walk **underneath** it. Actually, I'm one of those people! Walking under a ladder is supposed to give you bad luck, so I never do it. Whenever I **come across** a ladder, I always walk around it - even if I have to walk out into the street. Come to think of it, that's probably worse than walking under the ladder because I could get hit by a car, but there's no way that I would ever walk under the ladder.

SPEAKER 2

I don't know if any other countries have this superstition, but where I live, you have to be very careful when you buy a new pair of shoes. Apparently, it's bad luck to put the shoes on your **dining room** table. This goes back to something that people did in the past when somebody died - in fact, it was the families of miners in the north of England who originally did this. The family always bought new clothes to dress the dead person in, and this included buying new shoes. So, if you leave your new shoes on the table, some people think this could bring bad luck.

Speaker 3

In some countries, some people are very superstitious about going up or down stairs. If you're going **downstairs**, it's bad luck to pass someone who's coming up the stairs and the same thing happens **the other way around**. Someone once told me the reason for this. A long time ago, people carried swords, so you had to be very careful of the people around you. If somebody passed you on the stairs you couldn't see them because they were behind you. That meant that they could turn around and kill you with their sword without you realizing.

Speaker 4

When I was planning my wedding **a couple of years ago**, I had my heart set on a beautiful outdoor spring ceremony in November. Unfortunately, my husband's brother was engaged at the same time, and in Chile it's considered bad luck for two brothers to get married during the same year. Since his brother is the eldest, he got to choose his wedding date first. Of course, he chose November. We had to wait until January, in the middle of summer. Our wedding day was one of the hottest days of the year! It was so uncomfortable in my dress and my hair was out of control!

SPEAKER 5

In Brazil, if someone has an exam or is going for a job interview, we push our **thumb** between our first two fingers to wish them luck. I have some German friends who make a similar sign. They **wrap** the fingers of their right hand around their thumb and say, “I’m holding my thumb for you.” And I know that in the US people cross their fingers and say “fingers crossed” when they wish people luck which is also similar. Maybe they are all connected in some way.